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Welcome to the issue

THE WEB DESIGNER MISSION

To be the most accessible and inspiring voice for the industry offering cutting-edge features and techniques vital to building future-proof online content



Mark

Highlight



In terms of Shout' my ethos was simple: a single word that people could spell easily, say quickly and remember

Gary Boon, the managing director of Shout Digital, describes how he arrived at the agency's name. Page 32.

Ever wondered why Google cares about us just so very much?

t struck me the other day that we're probably already into a generation of web users who don't see the internet as anything beyond Google.

Many will be too young to

Many will be too young to remember a world without it, and even those longer in the tooth almost exclusively refer to going online as

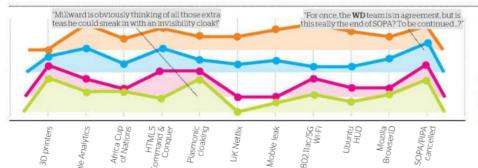
Googling: The thing is, they are so good at sneaking into all our web activities that the Google influence goes from strength to strength with users and webmasters alike. This issue we're looking specifically at the Analytics part of the service and how pivotal these free tools can be to helping gauge content performance. Our feature from page-38 helps to explain why this is so beneficial, but it did get me thinking about why it would matter enough to Google. Well, although they are undoubtedly

a friendly bunch, it has always been in their interest for our sites to be popular but also more open to being measured. By persuading us of the importance of web metrics alongside the dangling of the carrot of freely accessible reporting tools, they too are privy to pretty valuable information. That's if they din't already know it, of course. Ultimately though the aim is not just to help you optimise your own little slice of the world but also to enhance the collective quality or performance of the wider web world Google purveys. More clicks and more hits equates to good advertising fodder and the lifeblood that keeps the big 'G' machine ticking over.

My question to leave you with though would be: who keeps track of Google? I don't know the answer, but I suspect it's one

the answer, but I suspect it's one Analytics account that could do with some bigger charts! More clicks and more hits equates to good advertising fodder and the lifeblood that keeps the big 'G' machine ticking over

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Excitographic

Plotting the features that got us in a frenzy over the month...

- Steve Jenkins, Features Editor
- Mark Billen, Editor
- Steven Mumby, Designer
- Adam Millward, Senior Sub Editor

Turn over to the contents to discover what's going to get you excited this issue...

meta 3



This issue's panel of experts

Welcome to that bit of the mag where we learn more about the featured writers and contributors...



If you've been keen to get busy with metrics and boost traffic then this is the place!

With a background in IT and engineering, Simon is a highly respected technology journalist. This issue he's here to explain the intricacies of our featured cover topic - the extremely powerful services of Google Analytics and how they can benefit webmasters worldwide. If you've been keen to get busy with metrics and boost traffic then this is the place! Page 38



Mark Shufflebottom



Mark is an Adobe Education Leader and programme co-ordinator of BA (Hons) Interactive Media Production at Bournemouth University. This issue Mark revisits Adobe Edge and has a closer look at its new scripting features. Page 58



Robin de Jonah



Robin is the author of Google Sketch Lin for Game Design and SketchUp 7.1 for Architectural Visualization, In part two of his 3D WebGL for beginners guide he shows you how to light, animate and publish your 3D logo to the web. Page 66.



James Koster



WooThemes' 25-year-old designer James Koster joins us this month to demonstrate the process of opening an online store by leveraging open-source blogger WordPress and the plug-in, Page 62

Pete Simmons



Pete has been working in the games industry for the last nine years, mainly on digital marketing. He's here first-look at Mozilla's new BrowserID authentication method, plus show you how to implement it. Page 54

Sam Hampton-Smith



A keen supporter of web standards. Sam loves getting the most out of HTML and CSS. When not writing for Web Designer, he runs a graphic design agency in cotland and you can follow his antics on Twitter via the username @samhs. Page 50

Matt Gifford



Matt is a lead RIA consultant developer who specialises in ColdFusion, Flash and AIR development. With over ten years' industry experience across various sectors, he is a regular presenter at national and international conferences. Pane 84

Eric Freeman



Alongside Elisabeth Robson. Eric is co-author of the books Head First HTML & CSS and Head First HTML5 Programming. A computer scientist and former CTO of Disney.com, he's here to conclude our recent JSON two-part tutorial. Page 88.

Jeffrey Way



Jeffrey is a developer and vangelist who works for Envato. Aside from managing web-design blog Nettuts+, he enjoys playing with cutting-edge web technologies, making him an ideal guest to talk about code optimisation, Page 80.

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4



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inside issue 194

contents

Cutting-edge features, techniques and inspiration for web creatives

Chat with the team and other readers and discuss the latest tech, trends and techniques. Here's how to stay in touch...

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Inside...

22 Lightbox

Three sites trailing a blaze across the internet

30 Design diary: Art4web

The Slovakian agency describes its site revamp

32 Profile: Shout Digital

Uncover a UK studio well worth shouting about

38 Cover: Google Analytics

Made to measure? We go inside Google's vital metrics tools and explain why they matter

48 Blog beautiful

Six great examples of responsive design blogs

76 Design cloud

Going mobile with a pick of small-screen sites

94 Portfolio

Forrest Tanaka and Amit Das are showcased

96 Trend map: Glasgow

Scotland's business city reveals its creative side

98 Talent directory

Charting the great and good in the web trade

102 Hosting listings

Affordable packages for serving your domain

114 Style relic: Sainsbury's

Supermarket dotcom design from 1998-1999

<header>

Discussing the hottest topics from the web-design world

8 The quest for 'social search'
Tapping into the collective web consciousness

rapping into the concentre web consciousnes

10 Firefox's developer tools

An overview of the new in-browser capabilities

12 Crowdsource

All of your burning questions answered by us!

16 Comment: Alan Tam

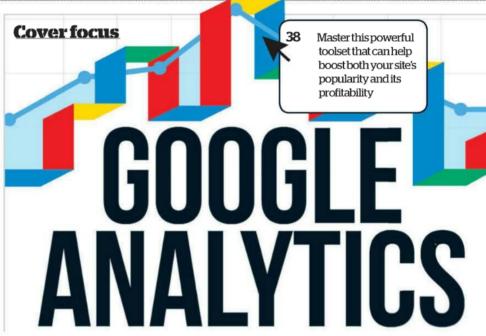
Monotype man calls for web font consistency

18 Comment: Ian Leighfield

The outlook for data storage is looking cloudy

20 Webkit

A raft of great products, books, apps and more





Design diary: Art4web

The secrets behind this studio's new portfolio site



Forged within Firefox

Developer tools examined in our news roundup



Design cloud

A beautiful selection of mobile marvels



Pro file: Shout Digital

We hear this agency's MD loud and clear...

6

On the free CD

112 Discover what your latest disc has to offer

Designer resources including some essential HTML5 reading

- 82 sumi stroke Photoshop brushes
- 80+ minutes of video tutorials
- 70 pearl social media icons
- City Facebook Fan Page worth \$15





Animated navigation

Bring your menus to life with CSS3



Life on the Edge

New scripting features from Adobe's IDE



WordPress eShops

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12 - Annual feature special with 1...

Word on the tweet

Implement a Twitter feed with JSON

Web workshop Re-creating the web's hottest styles



70 <u>Building headers with</u> colourful animated text

Mark Shufflebottom deconstructs www.roggeundpott.de.and explains how to mimic the site's dynamic header

72 <u>Apply a modern take</u> on retro styles with <u>www.thisistommy.com</u>

Adam Smith offers tips and inspiration for those aiming to deliver a contemporary edge to vintage visual styles

74 Create stylish content on a single page like ascensionlatorre.com

> It's all fixed headers and list tag techniques with this breakdown of a website layout that oozes elegance

<tutorials>

Web gurus take you step-by-step through professional techniques

50 <u>Cutting-edge navigation effects</u> with CSS3 alone

Sam Hampton-Smith on building impressive page menus

54 Integrate Mozilla's new BrowserID into your website

Authentication updated with this first-look walkthrough

58 Produce interactive animations with Adobe Edge

Discover jQuery support and the new scripting features

- 62 Open a feature-rich eShop using WordPress & WooCommerce
 Find out how trading online just got a whole lot simpler
- 66 Make the move from Google SketchUp to WebGL

Robin de Jongh is back to guide you through the process of placing your 3D animated logo into your website

{developer;

NEW! Dedicated 12-page section offering features and tutorials for coders



Feature

Push for peak performance

Expert developer Jeffrey Way on why optimising your listings is vital, with suggested tips and tools

84 Develop a secure login with Ruby on Rails

Add smart authentication controllers in order to protect your restricted pages

88 An introduction to JSON: part 2

In the second part of our JavaScript Object
Notation guide we install a Twitter feed directly
into our webpage

leader>

Discussing the hottest topics in the web-design world

If you have a creative project, new web product or great designer story, contact the editorial desk webdesigner@imagine-publishing.co.uk @@WebDesignerMag

Social search +1

Will Google's flagrant preferential treatment of Google+ in its search results alienate users or bring on board more brands and businesses?

oogle is the number one search engine in the world, available in a multitude of countries and a host of languages. If anyone has anything to promote online then it is the obvious starting point. However, Google is perfectly aware of how far reaching Google Search is, with the engine able to boast over 80 per cent of all searches made. Translate this into numbers and it means there are billions of users across the globe using its product - a scenario that is not so applicable to its social venture Google+ So what better way to promote an ailing service than via the world's favourite search engine? No need to get the Google green light, it's one of ours.

The very premise of Search plus Your World, as the integration is known, has been seen as nepotism by many, though obviously not by Google, and it hasn't been well received in its first few months of operation. In fact, according to a poll on Mashable around 63 per cent of voters didn't want social search results.

Admittedly, on the surface, Google Search is still much the same search engine it's always been with just a few added extras. But this simple analogy instantly reveals that, while users are still getting the results they want, they are also getting results which are heavily weighted towards Google+.

The lack of Twitter involvement is something that can't be ignored. If users are getting results that do not include those from the world's most popular microblogging service, surely the results are something of a lame duck? Twitter is still active in the search market giving over its tweet stack to Google's rival Bing. Will this see a significant shift towards Bing? It's highly unlikely that Google has to worry about users defecting in their millions, but if this controversial issue begins to give advertisers pause for thought, then it could become a more major concern.

To emphasise the contention the US Federal Trade Commission is reportedly including Google+ in its antitrust probe

of the search giant. However, no comment has been made by either side.

The flipside is that Google Search is still the dominant force, and for the time being this means Google+ will be the dominant social force. So perhaps now could be the time to stop doubting the network and embrace it, getting ahead while the rest of the world dithers. So, how does a company go about jumping aboard the Google+ platform?

The first step is to create a Google+ Brand page and make it relevant to the search terms people will be entering. With a page in place the next step is to create a content strategy. Aim to offer high-quality, engaging content on a daily basis and ensure it contains relevant

search terms and themes desirable to the target audience. Finally, check out competitors and take note of any successful strategies. For more help on getting started with Google+, visit

http://support.google.com/plus.

There's no doubt that social search is an inevitable step for the world of web searching in general. However, with Google shamelessly promoting its own product, will users finally say they have had enough? In Web Designer's opinion, probably not. The competition - read: Bing, MSN and Yahoo! - still falls far short of public demand. While users may not like Google's self-promotion, most will learn to live with it - that is, if they even noticed it in the first place.

...perhaps now could be the time to stop doubting the network and embrace it



Whatever happened to Google Realtime?

or those who can't remember Google Realtime it was a feature of Google Search that offered information from sources including Twitter, Facebook and selected blogs.

It was introduced at the tail-end of 2009 and included a timeline and content under the Realtime banner. However, as soon as it started to become popular it disappeared as quickly as it had emerged. The reason for Realtime's vanishing act is not as intriguing as you might expect. According to Google, it had an agreement with Twitter to include

its updates which simply expired on 2 July 2011. Twitter effectively said the same, but pointed out that it was working with other content providers. The issue that arose, and still has not been resolved entirely, is why do away with Realtime immediately when plenty of other sources were providing content - including the social-networking giant Facebook? Google denied it had anything to do with its own venture into social networking, Google+, which made an appearance only months later, but to us that seems difficult to believe.

Google+ male-female ratio



Top Google+ people

- **Britney Spears**
- **Snoop Dogg** Larry Page
- Tyra Banks
- Richard Branson

Conclusion

Annarently, statistics don't lie but simply allow us to make our own assertions. Taking a look at the most popular people on Google+ suggests a very US-centric audience - after all, when was the last time Britney Spears and Tyra Banks were popular outside the States?

Bing gets Social

Google and Twitter may no longer be search buddies, but Microsoft Bing continues to be friends with Twitter in much the same way that Google used to be. The Bing search engine currently has its own social feature in beta and, if you want an alternative to Google and Google+, this is probably it, if you want a 'Twitter Realtime' - and, let's be honest, this network is far more representative of what's happening in the world - then now might be the time to go Bing. Head to www.bing.com_click Explore, select Social and add a search term to get the real-time results that were once the domain of Google.



COO at Greenlight www.greenlightdigital.com

Social search is simply a search - just like one that you might make in Google, Bing or any other search engine - but one that returns listings from your social network (called your 'social graph') along with your other results.

"This year Google became the first search engine to make social search a reality by incorporating content that you/your connections might have created/shared via Google+intoits standard search results.

"This is important for a number of reasons. For businesses it means that you will need to invest in increasing your exposure in Google+ and other social networks as this will now have a direct impact on your site's online exposure and rankings in search result pages - and increasingly so. In addition, your business website needs to be designed and constructed in a way that allows and invites people to +1 and share pages and content, thus increasing the perceived value of the domain, page and/or content to the search engines, which again will result in preferential rankings.

"For consumers, social search should make your results more helpful than they have ever been by serving up results that are not only representative of the best of the web, but also results that consider the preferences, experiences and recommendations of your friends, family and other connections, and indeed through a better understanding of what you as an individual like and value most

<news cloud>

Bite-sized coverage of the month's trending topics

New version supercharges Modernizr

Modernizr, the open-source JavaScript library that helps make HTML5 and CSS3 sites work as intended in any browser, has just released version 25. The undate includes a host of new features and tools including a robust and integrated test suite which can be found at http:// modernizr.aithub.com/Modernizr/test/index.html. To get

the latest iteration head to www.modernizr.com.now

Modernizr HTML5 games

Trademark issues could see the release of the iPad

3 (previously expected to be 7 March) delayed

Android app now includes an all-new Dashboard UI and powerful new editor

New version of the world's leading social network for Windows

Phoneisunveiled

Firefox for Windows and Safari for Mac get best HTML5 accessibility scores

playMobi released

appMobi (http://appmobi.com) recently announced the beta of playMobi, a cross-platform game development, deployment and monetisation SDK. The new kit gives HTML5 game developers a JavaScript API solution to many of the issues they regularly face. including user authentication. social player engagement and in-game payments.



Discussing the hottest topics in the web-design world



Develop with Firefox

The Mozilla browser unleashes a new range of powerful developer tools and sought-after fixes in version 11. Here we take a closer look at what designers and developers can sink their teeth into...



o one can argue Firefox isn't a dominant force in the browser market. Sitting comfortably alongside Internet Explorer and Chrome, it is the browser of choice for many web designers and developers.

Version 10 of Firefox boosted the already impressive selection of built-in developer tools and version 11 is set to do the same.

Currently in beta (expected for release on 13 March) the latest iteration will add the Style Editor and Page Inspector 3D View.

Zoomed in on, while features can selected to give the developer the name of the element in a breadcromenu at the bottom of the page.

The 3D View is part of the Page Inspector function, working with 10 manual to 10

the Page Inspector 3D View. This is WebGL powered and, for that very reason, a compatible computer/browser is essential for viewing. The 3D View, which was available previously as an add-on, presents wew and style inspector. Alternative wew and style inspector. Alternative was along the property of the additional style inspector. Alternative was along the property of the additional style inspector. Alternative was along the property of the additional style inspector. Alternative was along the property of the additional style inspector. Alternative was along the additional style inspector. Alternative was along the property of the additional style inspector. Alternative was along the additional style inspector was along the additional style inspector. Alternative was along the additional style inspector was along the additional style inspector

a whole new perspective on the structure of a webpage. The feature takes the current page and stacks all the elements that reside inside the body tag and even lets the viewer see hidden elements. The whole structure of the page can be rotated and zoomed in on, while features can be selected to give the developer the exact name of the element in a breadcrumb-style mean at the bottom of the page.

arch) the latest iteration will add the Style
ditor and Page Inspector 3D View.

The more curious of the new additions is
e Page Inspector 3D View. This is WebGL
bwered and, for that very reason, a

The 3D View is part of the Page
Inspector function, working with the HTML
view and Style Inspector. Alternatively, any
element can be chosen from the
aforementioned menu for closer analysis.

The 3D View is found via the Tools menu can be called into action; use '+' and '-' to residing under Inspect. Neatly tucked away in the corner is the 3D button; press this and W/S keys to rotate.

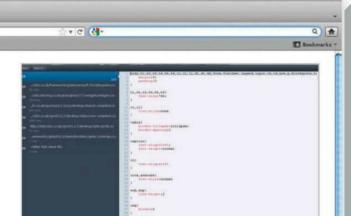
The updated Page Inspector now offers a dynamic 3D perspective of page elements



and the current page transforms into three dimensions. Scroll up/down to zoom in/out, click and drag to rotate and Ctrl/right-click and drag to pan. Alternatively, the keyboard can be called into action; use '+' and '-' to zoom, the arrow keys to pan and the A/D and W/S keys to rotate.



In the style stakes the previous released Style Inspector has been given something of a makeover. Version 11 of Firefox now has the free-form Style Editor which provides a list of all the stylesheets related to the current page in one pop-up pane. This is the ideal environment for in-browser styling.



Cut to the code and start some super-simple in-browser styling with the Style Editor

Users can simply pick a stylesheet and make tweaks, which are instantly executed. Any changes can be saved to the desktop making this not only a great tool for working on personal/client sites but also any random website where you want to take a closer look at the code. Sitting inside the Style Editor is the option to create a new stylesheet, import a stylesheet and use the 'eye' icon to activate/deactivate an entire sheet.

Mozilla hasn't forgotten under the hood with a host of fixes built in to Firefox 11. New is the option to migrate bookmarks, history and cookies from

Google Chrome, sync add-ons across a series of computers and support for the CSS property text-size-adjust. There are a couple of HTML5 fixes too. For instance, the outerHTML property is now supported and the view source syntax highlighting now uses the HTML5 parser.

Alongside the Style Editor and Page Inspector there is SPDY protocol support for faster page loads, which is testable, WebSockets are unprefixed and files can now be stored in IndexDB.

To get the latest edition of Firefox and test out all the brand-new tools pay a visit to www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/beta.

Mozilla hasn't forgotten under the hood with a host of fixes built in to Firefox 11

Create top-class Android UIs

The new Android Design manual is the go-to location to satisfy the needs of Android app designers and developers

ndroid 4.0. the latest version of the Google OS known as Ice Cream Sandwich, is touted as a 'major milestone for Android design'. The new principles installed in the Android tablet OS Honevcomb have now been applied across all mobile devices.

The arrival of the Android Design site is set to give Android developers and designers - particularly newcomers to the OS - the perfect place to learn about the major elements needed to create stunning user interfaces.

The online presence provides a wealth of information to ensure that users create great-looking apps. The quide is effectively broken into three sections: Style, Patterns and Building Blocks. Style looks at some of the more obvious elements such as Device and Displays, Themes, Touch Feedback,

Metrics and Grids, Typography, Color and Iconography. Each section gives guidelines about designing for different screen sizes, how to communicate texture with visuals, grids and sizes for UI elements, typography scaling and the option to download colour swatches

Patterns is more technical, giving guidelines on new Android 4.0 features, how app structures work, tips on navigation and backwards compatibility with older versions of the Android OS.

Building Blocks offers an insight into all the ready-to-use elements that can be implemented, such as tabs, seek hars and switchers with instructions on how to use them to best effect.

To complete the picture there is a link to Android Developers' index page, for crucial links to resources, references, the Android SDK and a developer guide.

Android Design in general is a little fluffy, but does provide a nice all-round introduction to the OS. It also offers all the right links to more in-depth documentation for those who want to start building right away. For a gentle initiation to designing in Android go to http://developer.android.com/design.









Your emails, tweets, forum comments. The social network but in print

This month we wax lyrical about the best software for mockups, how to modify WP themes and the top responsive design frameworks



Is Illustrator a better option than Photoshon for mockups

Subject Another WordPress convert From Lesley Snaders



I have just joined the WordPress revolution. I've been using TumbIr and thought it was time to add a bit website. The only problem I have is that I want to modify the theme and get it exactly how I want it before I put it up on the web. First, how easy is it to modify a theme and, second, how can I preview the

Glad we could help, Lesley. Modifying is as easy or as difficult as you want to make it. If you know a little about coding tackle the stylesheet (typically style.

css) of the theme to make adjustments. This is really simple if all you want to do is change fonts, background images, etc. A handy tool for viewing a theme locally

available for Windows, Mac and Linux and is on the XAMPP site). Good luck with the tweaks!



Web Designer

Discover the latest techniques to help create inspirational and engaging webpages on our site



Create interactive animations from a Twitter feed http://hit.lv/xI4iN7



Manage backgrounds with CSS3 http://hit.lv/vVDzC2



Optimise WP & enhance site performance http://bit.lv/zg00gv

Subject Mockups with

From John Tedesco



I've been reading Web Designer for only a few months, and have been running my own small web-design firm for a few years. Primarily my success comes from my ability to design attractive websites and build them using current web standards in custom code writing without the use of templates and open-source content management systems; I (we) specialise in custom content management systems (which I think would be helpful to talk about at a later date)

I'm writing because I've noticed the majority of web designers, or at least all those I know, design websites with Photoshop, I always designed with Illustrator - as a packaging and product designer, that's what I knew, but I also think Illustrator is a much more efficient way to organise the files and pieces of a

website all within one documentelements are simple to enlarge and move around, plus you can create art boards and slices, etc, with ease. Photoshop, to me, seems like the harder route and the 'inappropriate' way to create a 'style guide' of artwork for a website. I would love to talk more about my process and develop a how-to for your magazine explaining and illustrating the benefits of using a single Illustrator file for an entire website's artwork library.

Photoshop has always been the preferred route for web designers when it comes to mockups simply because, in general, designers around the world are more likely to be using this program. The use of Illustrator, however, does sound like an interesting proposition and one that Web Designer is keen to explore further. Keep an eve out for future issues in case we take John up on his offer and share his expertise!

Subject To be or not to be responsive?

From Michael Gerreft



I have been reading a lot about responsive design and I am undecided whether it's a good thing or not. It looks to me that to create a well-worked responsive site there is a compromise in the initial design process.

Anyway, without making too many assertions on the whole process I am going to take one of my current designs and make it. responsive. Are there any good frameworks out there that will help with the transformation?

There are a range of tools and frameworks currently assisting designers to achieve a one-sizefits-all approach, Michael. Web Designer would like to say that we have tested them all in great detail, but even we are not superhuman... Take a look at the following and we're sure you'll find one that fits the bill: Less Framework (http://

Join the conversation as it happens on Twitter () @webdesignermag Comment on the news and opinion () www.webdesignermag.co.uk Email the editorial team at () webdesigner@imagine-publishing.co.uk

lessframework.com): 320 and Up (http://stuffandnonsense..co.uk/projects/320andup): 1140 CSS Grid (http://cssgrid.net): or Frameless (http://framelessgrid.com). Also be sure to check out our upcoming feature on responsive design scheduled for issue 195.

Subject Measuring my success

From Carey de Valk



I think my website is great, but I'm unsure what others think or how I can get more visitors. I have been checking my Google Analytics and I seem to be getting around 500 visitors a month and I have a 'bounce rate' of around 65 per cent. I'm not sure what most of the figures mean though. Is this good? How can I get more visitors to my site?

There isn't enough space here to go into great detail about the specifics of design that will improve your visitor stats. In answer to the question, is 500 hits good, it's not bad for a small niche site. As to how can you get more visitors, the simple answer is: sell yourself. Get on

Twitter and start following like-minded people and make sure your website is updated regularly with content that's informative and interesting.

Subject Flash file indexing query

From Stephen Smith



I built a Flash-based website some years ago for a client. This was built using levels - loading and unloading SWFs depending on which page you visited. Now that Google can index Flash files when the site is displayed in the organic listings within Google it separates the pages out under the main homepage link. But when a user clicks on these links they view the single SWF without all the other levels that make up the page. Is there a solution or a workaround to this problem?

Adobe Flash is a platform that is slowly disappearing from many web designers' skillsets, but we're sure that someone reading this will have the answer. If you know how to resolve this issue let us know at webdesigner@imagine-publishing.co.uk.

Comments from the Blog



Web Designer is always keen to hear from its dedicated readers, followers and visitors. Here we together a specially selected

Rob at King's Lynn Website Design (in reference to the 'Optimise WordPress and enhance site performance' tutorial) said:

Thanks for this article, got my page load down from 3.5s to 1.0s within about ten minutes of reading this! Will be implementing the same changes across all of my client sites now.



Scott Birnie

Result, not only is latest @ WebDesignerMag out but my fav #html5 guru @robhawkes features heavily in it. Just need to try it out one day!



Maria

Cannot live without @WebDesignerMag ... my favourite web industry publication on the planet!



ANDROID MAGAZINE

There are over 100 million Android-powered phones and tablets in the world and currently over 300,000 apps. **Android Magazine** is the only title dedicated solely to this platform, offering a host of step-by-step tutorials and features on how to use, hack and improve any Android device: **www.littlegreenrobot.co.uk**.

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designer

Web fonts on the rise

Alan is the director of Product
Marketing for Web Font Services at
Monotype Imaging, At his previous
post with Adobe, he drove
the adoption of the Adobe
Flash Platform for both
mobile and consumer
electronic devices.



Alan Tam

If typographic continuity is crucial, are you on the same page?

he proliferation of websites on to smartphones and tablets presents a huge opportunity for organisations to position their brands across differing web and mobile platforms. Your brand defines who you are and, just as important, helps you stand out from your competitors. With fonts being both the essence and genesis of branding and identity, the typography your branding sends out has a direct effect on a consumer's perception of your company, your products and whether you seem trustworthy or not. A key difference in the digital medium is that the presentation and consistency of a brand is of even greater importance towards initiating a relationship with a customer since first contact to purchase can be only a single click away.

Web fonts were originally launched in 2009 to enable web designers, content creators and brand holders to access and extend their brand in the digital medium for their internet communications that include branded sites, blogs, web content, campaigns and advertising as well as personal sites.

Now we're in 2012, web fonts are starting to go mainstream. I recently reported the good news that Monotype Imaging and Google's Web Fonts team have been working closely together to improve the current use of web fonts. The main focus has been on file size. The idea is simple: smaller web fonts are faster web fonts. Faster is better. Through this partnership we have now successfully achieved the goal of making the process quicker, the image sharper and keeping the same consistency of quality and performance across different browser platforms by using Monotype Imaging's MicroType Express (MTX) algorithm. It's hugely encouraging to see a company with Google's reputation throwing its weight behind web fonts, but how is it being deployed in the real world?

Some of the largest online retailers are now getting to grips with web fonts and really starting to use them to their advantage. For example, Le coq sportif, one of the world's most well-known fashion names, renowned for its clothing, footwear and sporting equipment, recently completed a major overhaul of its website, and web fonts

played a key role in improving its digital experience. As an internationally recognised brand, which trades in multiple geographies, the revamped website had to cater for eCommerce usage and be merged into one website with versions for different countries. Le coq sportif has developed and maintained brand loyalty over many years and has had great success in creating an identity that the consumer both likes and respects – something which would be extremely detrimental to compromise when updating the site. It was imperative for brand behaviour to remain constant across all of its international platforms.

Le coq sportif had been using the Univers typeface, which was set in the company's branding guidelines and used extensively throughout the history of the brand. However, Univers was not a web-standard font and therefore not transferable across digital devices – posing a huge risk in that all brand loyalty could be lost. Thankfully, we are now at the stage where a web font version of Univers was able to be sourced efficiently. Le coq sportif was able to quickly identify and provide the correct typeface, which was specially created for use on digital devices.

I touched briefly on consistency earlier and how important it is for brands to keep the uniformity across different media and devices. If the uniformity from print to mobile isn't there, then your brand is in serious trouble. Building brand loyalty can take years and great investment, yet we still see some companies jeopardising their reputations by not adapting their brands to be transferrable. We even carried out research on mobile branding, which revealed that less than one per cent would definitely trust the credibility of a brand if the font in the text was different to what they were used to seeing. With widespread spam issues and data breaches becoming more common, keeping your brand consistent has never been more vital.

If your brand is not consistently extended across these platforms, then the ability to reach and connect with vast audiences via new digital media will be greatly reduced. The good news though is that as digital media continues to grow and diversify, so will web fonts.

Some of the largest online retailers are now getting to grips with web fonts and really starting to use them to their advantage

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This cloud won't shift

Jan is the head of Business Development at ZipCloud, which is part of the UK-based cloud-storage solutions company JDI Backup. In his spare time he enjoys blogging about everything 'cloud', golf and watching his beloved Swindon Town FC play.



Leighfield

Today's outlook and forecast is a perfect storm for your data

across multiple platforms is

of utmost importance **

The 'cloud' or 'cloud computing' have been buzzwords within many industries for a few years now. At first a simple idea, it has now evolved to become an important part of any web designer and web user's life, and to those it hasn't, it shortly will do. In fact, cloud storage is quickly becoming the fastest-growing web industry in the world. Its convenience, its execution and the near-unlimited ways of storing and syncing data has led to a worldwide boom; it really is time to get your head in the cloud.

The sheer thought of losing all your priceless images, those hundreds of hours of work and presentations from back in your college days can bring people to their knees with terror.

Like a lot of you, a few years ago I was new to the idea of cloud. computing and incredibly sceptical of its benefits. With the current market so saturated with choices, you find yourself questioning not

only who you can trust but also what kind of benefit a plan will be.

Why is it only now that the cloud is quickly becoming the best option for web users and designers across the globe? To those not guite vet versed in its advantages. let me give you a quick overview.

Many moons ago it was standard

practice for individuals and companies to do multiple copies of work on multiple platforms - CDs, tapes, USB sticks, external hard drives, etc. However, this became clunky and difficult to manage, as well as running the terrible risk of putting all your eggs in one basket should a house fire, burglary or similar mishap befall you.

Oddly enough though, this scenario presents itself as the greatest stumbling block for cloud storage and computing as an industry.

How do you convert users who have never experienced the devastation data loss brings, and that may simply be happy and assured with how they currently protect their files?

The cloud has many tricks up its sleeve to try and convince you. With the many leaps forward in technology that we have seen in the industry, it's hard to keep up to date with what features are not only useful but also relevant to the end-user. The ability to access files whenever and wherever you are from any device is a must for

anyone searching for cloud storage, but it may surprise you to hear that some companies do not yet offer such a feature. The option to be completely in control of your files, all in one place that is secure enough to store all your work, and allowing it to be accessed at any time from any device is, to me, a priceless benefit.

Some options out there will also allow you to back up your data while you sleep, or while you are busy working on your next project. This allows for risk and carefree backup, taking place in the background, without eating into your work time.

A bidding war in the market has led to cost becoming an essential factor for every competitive company. Some in the market now try to offer large storage plans, coupled with the peace of mind that comes with storing files offsite for less than 20 pence per day. There are very few people who could argue that cloud backup and storage

isn't an affordable option and **For designers, the ability to** excellent value for money.

The capacity to share files securely access, save and upload files between other users is a remarkably useful tool, especially when you're looking to send documents or photos between profiles or users Whether it's private or public sharing, the possibilities here are endless.

For designers and web users alike, the ability to access, save and upload files across multiple platforms is, in the vast majority of cases, of utmost importance. So it's worth taking into consideration that. even now, some cloud-storage services do not back up Mac operating systems, although a few services do offer the ability to access your files online when using a Mac product.

Right now the world needs educating that cloud storage is the way forward. A lot of the industry's biggest players are attempting to do this with special offers and promotions. Many cloud-based companies - including ZipCloud (www.zipcloud.com) - are offering free trials on many of their products, as well as some very competitive discounts. Cloud storage is not a phase - it's the future.

Inevitably, cloud storage will become the everyday way to back up all that is important, and the last thing you want anyone saying to you after losing all those precious files is, "I told you so."



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Mario Bros stickers

www.firebox.com

For all you retro gamers out there, check out this set of 36 fully licensed stickers which are perfect for re-creating a favourite scene from the original Super Mario Bros game. All stickers are movable and reusable, making them ideal for creative pods or offices craving a rapid retro makeover.

JavaScript & jQuery: The Missing Manual

http://missingmanuals.com

This Missing Manual is a jargon-free guide that demonstrates the basics of JavaScript and the jQuery library. Discover how to make webpages interactive, get the most from animations and effects, and

collect data from web forms





Vlingo Free https://market. android.com

Whatever IOS can do so can Android. Vlingo offers Siri-like functionality on an Android device. Simply speak and Vlingo will obey. Send texts and emails, voice dial, search the web, get directions and open other apps with ease.



JavaScript Graphics

HTML5 Cookbook

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www.datacolor.eu

The Spyder is a display colour calibrator designed to ensure the colours on screen match up to those that come out in print. The unit features a patented, full-spectrum seven-colour sensor to sync your monitor, laptop computer, iPad, iPhone and projector.

Supercharged JavaScript Graphics £31/\$40

http://oreillv.com

If you want to produce high-performance web graphics then this book is a great starting point. Tackle JavaScript optimisation and understand how it impacts performance and also learn a host of advanced UI techniques with jQuery.

HTML5 Cookbook £27/\$35

http://oreilly.com

This book, aimed at intermediate users, boasts a collection of 'practical recipes' that will give readers hands-on experience of HTML5. Each recipe includes sample code and a detailed discussion on how a feature works.

Digital Art Techniques for Illustrators and Artists

www.acblack.com

A comprehensive guide to creating digital artwork with Photoshop and Illustrator. The book shows how to use the software as a tool rather than letting it take over the creative process.



Breffo Spiderpodium

www.breffo.com

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http://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/

hipstamatic/id342115564?mt=8

The popular, and deservedly so, Hipstamatic app has been given an update. If you don't have the app it's definitely worth getting your hands on. Go retro with a host of effects and filters and now save your favourite flash/film/lens combos



Digital Artist

www.digitalartistdaily.com

For those looking to improve their digital art skills or to get more familiar with a bevy of creative software, check out our fantastic sister title Digital Artist.

Head First: Mobile Web

http://oreillv.com

This tasty tome has 480 pages on how to use the web technology most developers are familiar with to build sites and apps that are mobile friendly.

Wacom Inkling

http://inkling.wacom.com

A sketching device that every designer/illustrator should consider adding to their toolset. Draw straight onto paper and capture digitally, create separate layers and transfer to your favourite image-editing suite to play.

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www.css3maker.com

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IS Visual Cheat Sheet HTML5 Visual Cheat Sheet

http://bit.lv/MOh54

A cheat sheet created by Woork Up that incorporates all the essential HTML5 tags and related elements.



Alex Pierce

http://theaeekdesigner.com

Development technologies HTML5 Boilerplate, CSS3, ¡Query, TypeKit, Nivo Slider, Zurb's Reveal modal



Designer **Alex Pierce** http://thegeekdesigner.com

A bold portfolio site from a versatile designer who understands the art of online typography



Pierce uses a limited chance to shine colour palette to great Safari or Chrome, the over the placement of

his well-chosen graphics and designers to develop over-busy web typography. Bold without being brash, portfolios, this example is a refreshing this site offers both practical and change. The animated portions of the inspiring access to the designer's work.

Pierce describes his concept: "The overall theme I was going for was 'desperate prom-date/look-at-me-look-

ow in its sixth incarnation, with big typography, bright splashes of the portfolio site of Alex colour and give my nerdy personality a

The smooth page transitions rely effect. When viewed heavily on CSS3 percentage/keyframe in the recommended animation and markup with HTML5. The site also uses subtle changes in constrained parameters texture as each page loads; this is of the site allow Pierce to unobtrusive and delivers some have complete control eyecatching colour and type combos.

With a propensity among some site are smooth and unobtrusive, but it's the typographical design that stands out. This web portfolio proves that less is more when it comes to at-me'. I wanted to grab your eyeballs showcasing your design talents online.

The animated portions of the site are smooth and unobtrusive, but it's the typographical design that stands out



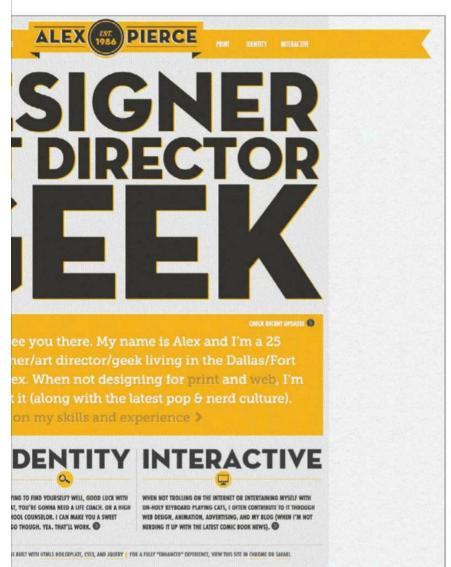
 The billboard-like homepage shouts volumes about the designer's love of type and his clear understanding of online typography

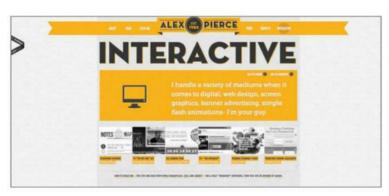
abcABC 1234567890

abcABC 1234567890

- Futura Condensed PT from ParaType is an evolution of the original font design by Paul Renner working for Bauer in 1927
- · Museo Slab from Jos Buivenga's exljbris Font Foundry; it is available from MyFonts, FontShop and Fontspring









 The control that HTML5 and TypeKit now give is exploited. with consummate skill on the bio page of Pierce's site

· Individual pieces of work are each given their own page that provides their vital statistics



 Portfolio pages showcase each of Pierce's key skills and follow the site's overall design aesthetic



Create Digital Media

http://createdm.com

Development technologies Optimised for mobile devices, CSS keyframe animations, Photoshop, responsive web-design techniques



Designer **Mike Kus** http://mikekus.com

A marketing site for app designers not only shows the skills on offer but also the company's personality



showcase its technical

and I was working with a

handing them over to Ryan Taylor (who critical. Kus says: "We have reached the I hired for the dev). I don't always do this point now where designing for the web but when you're working with a is also designing for mobile devices." developer it's something you have to do. Once I had handed over the site websites that support app developers, design we would talk through each this is an excellent example.

he app company Create page. I'd answer any questions Ryan Digital Media wanted a had and we also talked through the new site that would approach for the responsive design."

The impression of the site on first ability, but also give viewing is that it is an evolution of what prospective clients a feel used to be called 'Web 2.0'. Now several for its design sensibilities. years later, the clean lines, sparse Mike Kus tells us: "As graphics and the uncluttered approach this is a very visual site are still clearly a driving factor here.

For the company, ensuring that its developer I designed all site worked flawlessly on the mobile the pages in Photoshop first before devices it designs apps for was clearly

As a frontrunner of a new breed of

We have reached the point now where designing for the web is also designing for mobile devices



This company's blog is vitally important to allow an insight into what kind of designers they are



· Creativity with a robust technical foundation is clear from the work page on the website. Art and

abcABC 1234567890

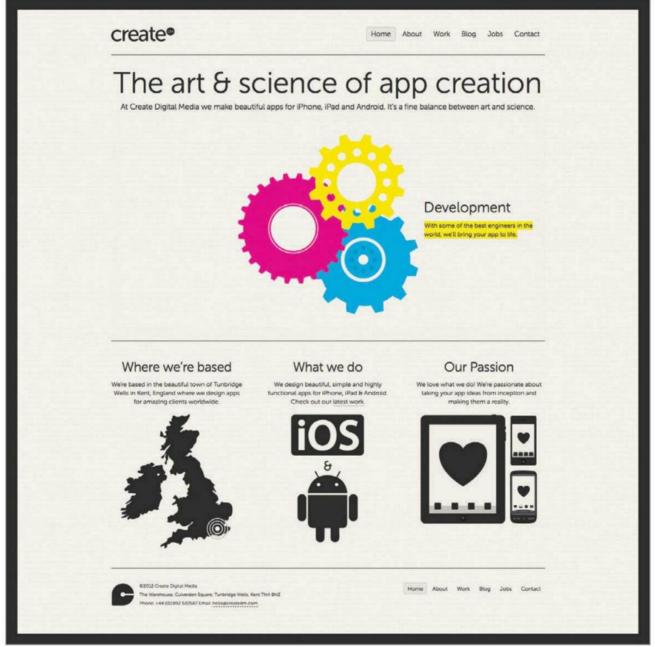
 Museo Sans Rounded (in various weights) from Jos Buivenga's exljbris Font Foundry. Available from MyFonts, FontShop and Fontspring







The homepage of the site uses striking primary-coloured graphics. Animated with CSS keyframes, the page loads instantly and runs smoothly giving an immediate impression of technical expertise.









<From left to right>

- Fancy a job creating apps? Kus ensured that the jobs page clearly communicates what Create Digital Media is all about
- The people behind Create Digital Media are front and centre here. The unobtrusive layout is both clean and inviting
- This site offers several great examples of what can be achieved with well-thought-out and executed CSS keyframe animations

<Above>

 The use of a monochrome background palette makes the colour keyframe graphics all the more vibrant



The Mark Rothko **Experience**

www.experiencered.ca

Development technologies Flash, full-motion video, Photoshop, webcam



Designer Zulu Alpha Kilo www.zulualphakilo.com

The online presence for the play Red offers viewers a unique window into the world of Mark Rothko



website accompany intensity of the play

use Flash-based video coupled with the connection the site makes with the visitor's very own webcam.

designers commented: "The ultimate" it reacts to the viewer's position while goal was to design an intimate and you explore. Flash may be old hat, but immersive environment reflective of this site amply illustrates there is still life the play's dark and intense tonality. We in this animation format when in the wanted a unique experience that hands of talented designers.

to places the viewer within arm's length of the Rothko. So we designed the site to Canadian stage play Red house full-screen video content in is an in-your-face order to create a tense and almost experience - quite claustrophobic interaction." The film literally. The developers production partner - Common Good of the site wanted to was key to delivering the immersive communicate the footage pivotal to the site's success.

Rothko's own painting, Red, was the through the viewer's inspiration for the dark colour palette computer and opted to that has been adopted. But it's the viewer that is truly innovative, drawing Outlining their approach, the you in with scale and shifts in frame as

The ultimate goal was to design an immersive environment reflective of the play's dark and intense tonality



 The homepage of the site grabs your attention and doesn't let go as Red unfolds

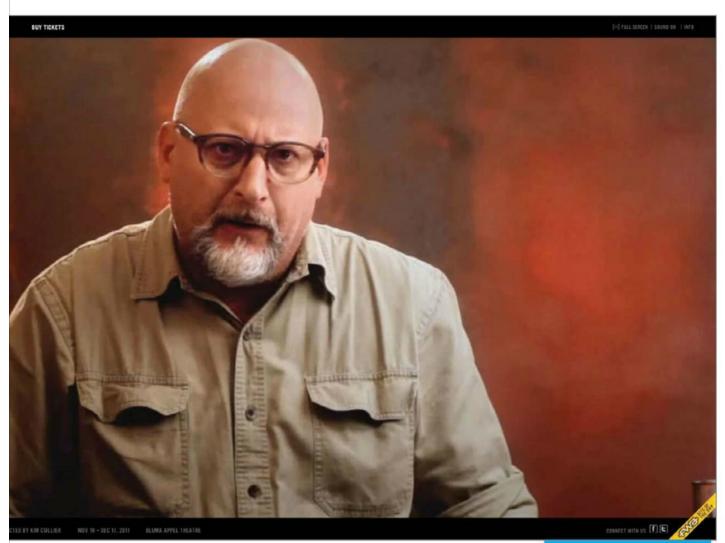
ABCOFFGHIJKI MNOPORSTUVWXY7 01234567890\$\in \#?7.81

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPORSTUVWXYZ abcdefghi iklmnopgrstuvwxyz 1234567890\$€£¥#?%&!

Above, top to bottom>
• The main title font is Adelaida from http://_ youworkforthem.com..The handwritten font is available in several weights

 Ultramagnetic, also from http:// youworkforthem.com, is used for the primary copy as well as the header and footer text







You direct the action

with their webcam directions ensures the play springs to life from the screen and engages the visitor with maximum interaction.

- **Left, clockwise, from bottom left>** The subtle opening credits of the site mask the intense experience that the viewer is about to encounter
- The one-page scrollable CV really brings Rothko's work to life thanks to its original styling
- Learn more about the artist and the play before switching on your microphone and webcam



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This issue: The Slovakian agency explains the workload behind its brand-spanking-new online portfolio that has caused quite a stir

Background

Producing a new portfolio website that gets noticed is one thing, but launching one that grabs industry attention and several plaudits is something else altogether...

> Marketing services or products online these days is challenging to say the least, with myriad channels utilised to effectively spread a brand or message. But within this world of social profiling via Twitter and Facebook, the humble website still has a massive role to play in literally providing an independent 'home' for who you really are. It can form a marketing identity and give your followers, connections, friends, clients and customers alike a memorable sense of your identity. For design agencies such as Slovakia's Art4web, the 'home page', or portfolio site, can take your skills global and have a profound effect on widening your client base. So it isn't any wonder that most businesses invest considerable time, effort and money into designing or revamping their own sites in a bid to better convey a creative vision.

> "Our previous website was two years old and, even if it still represented what we wanted, we weren't satisfied with it any more," reveals Art4web CEO Lukáš Majzian. "Therefore we decided on a resolute and courageous change, which started from a redesign of our company logo and then grew into the new website. We wanted to create something fresh, playful and friendly – just like our agency really is."

Since the new site at www.art4web.sk went live, it has raised the profile of the agency and opened up a vast new audience worldwide thanks to numerous inclusions on prestigious gallery sites. This month we speak to the guys involved to get the inside track on how it came together...



1 Concept

This image gives a sense of how the animated monster avatar may have been rendered

The new direction for the site took on various conceptual guises before the team homed in on the final idea

Lukáš: "The initial concept of our website was completely different to the final result. At first we only wanted to do a gentle facelift and change the structure, but later we rejected this option. We started to work on a completely different version, which wouldn't be so standard in style. This new concept began by taking inspiration from our new agency logo, which metaphorically represents joining ideas into one whole unit and also the evolution of contemporary web design. All the visual ideas were developed offline with paper, pencil and crayon. The essence of the graphics conveyed bubbles (or ideas) flying out in

space and bringing together various colourful things. In the header the ideas joined into the contents. This content would primarily be video, presenting an agency showreel which would show off our portfolio.

"However, later in the process we threw aside the video idea due to a lack of time, instead we wanted to use animations of an illustrated figure - a mascot which would thematically do some funny activities. The end result was a silder with altering amusing pictures and headlines. Moreover this silder would also offer the advantage of changing imagery according to the season, project or just to keep things fresh..."



Settling on an overall graphical style - particularly for the page header - was critical to establishing a friendly, playful feel



Lukáš: "A big thing for us was the illustration of the website header; it was redrawn several times as we were not satisfied with it. Adam Cigánik, our external illustrator, was involved in creating the initial graphic and he created some basic illustrations of flying bubbles in space that were used in the final phase. These elementary shapes were put together in Illustrator and completed in Photoshop where we added pictures, textures and gradients. It may sound easy, but the illustration was probably the longest

process in the whole site development. After defining the main mission it was necessary for us to reason out the whole website's logical structure and elements, plus the arrangement of the inner subpages. We wanted people to navigate through the website fluently and, so far, it seems that this goal was achieved, as according to Facebook feedback, many people really do browse the whole site.

Structure was achieved via the MindNode program and wireframes were also generated with pen and

paper sketches. We had to create a range of smaller details at this stage too such as custom icons.

"Alongside design we were putting together new text which was also a vital phase. Technically the text was composed fairly easily via the open-source writer from OpenOffice. We needed to combine contents and visuals so they would enhance each other. Text was written by our copywriter Ivica Duricová, who did a great job. I personally think that thanks to her text a friendly atmosphere runs through our site."



3 Build

When it came to the backend, it took a lot of patient PHP programming to get through the challenging testing and debugging stage

Lukáš: "For the technical part I would like to thank my colleague Viliam Harajka (PHP programmer) and I would especially like to bow to his patience, which he demonstrated during the long process of website testing and debugging. This was the biggest challenge and I think that the testing phase took much more time than coding the site itself. Our old website encompassed a very easy, old-fashioned and hard-to-adapt system, so we had to make a brand-new one from scratch.

"It is built on our own framework and caters to all of the needs that we asked for from the beginning. Our demands were clear: we needed to fill in our portfolio as simply as possible and we also added a new 'blog' subpage, so this system includes an easy editorial system for blogging as well. The website runs in two language mutations – Slovak and English; a German mutation has been prepared too, but this is yet to launch."

Thelaunch

ALD FLYDEL

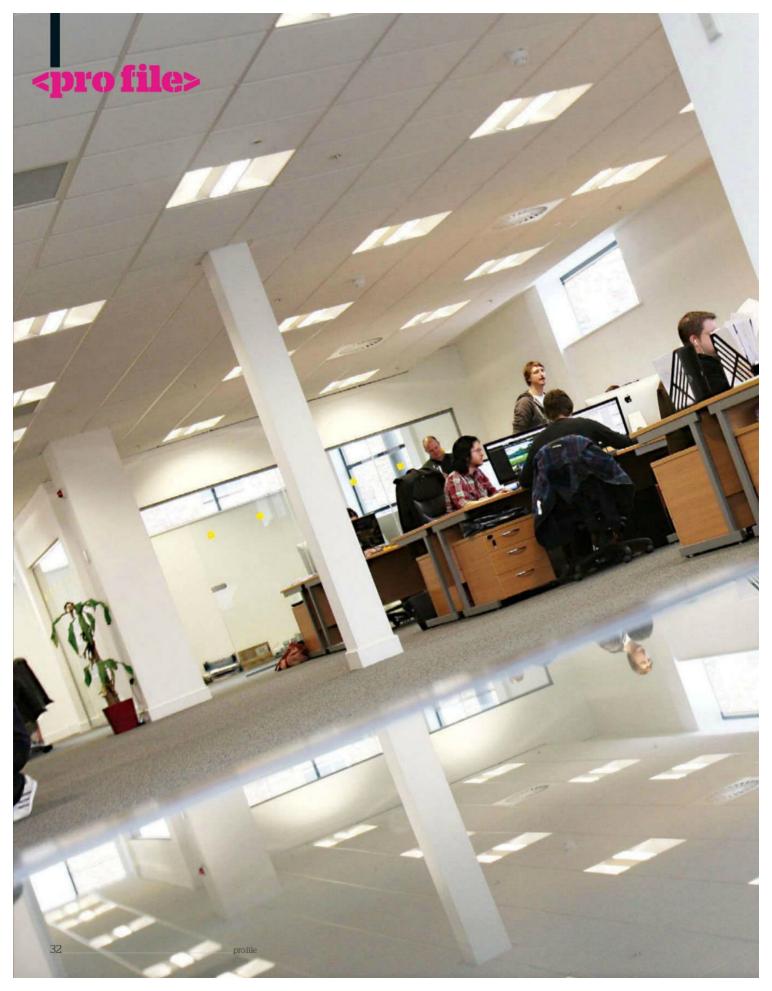
Lukáš: "As we have already written on our company blog (which is unfortunately only provided in Slovak), responses from our clients and also from our fans on social networks were really positive. Honestly, we didn't expect such good feedback. The biggest advantage of our new website is in being distinguished from more common styles. People remember this website design, which is supported by friendly text, and it leaves a lasting impression. It's almost unbelievable what the right combination of words and colours can do.

"Some parts of the site almost taste like raspberry bubblegum. We were surprised how this 'flavour' The designers opted for a simpler image-slider header that still bubbles with colour and playful fun

impressed the female demographic of our clientele. Previously 90 per cent of our clients have been men, but this is not the case any more. Since launching the website, interest from female clients has dramatically increased with the number of emails and calls from women having risen significantly. We must not forget the praise we've had on Facebook either. This progress confirmed to us that Art4web is fulfilling a need in the market and offers a convenient alternative for those who not only want fresh and extraordinary design but also a professional solution from their digital agency. We have also been featured on a

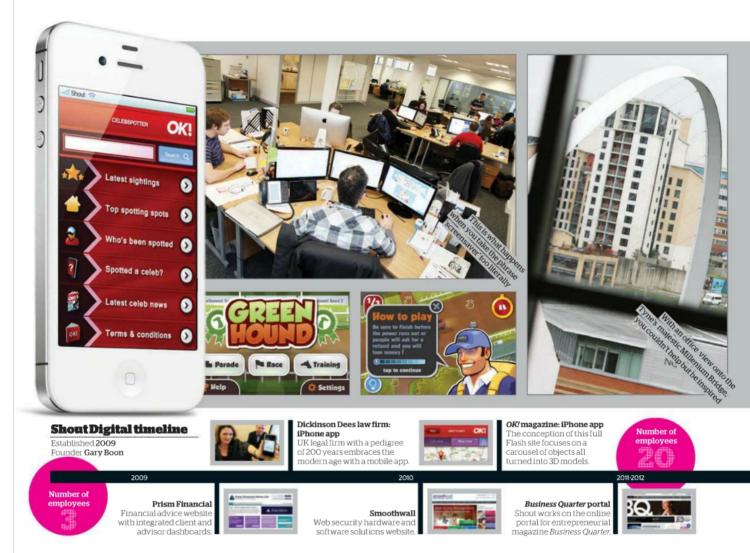


number of gallery sites. Probably the most important for us was being named 'Site of the day' on <u>Awwwards.com</u>, thanks to which our website will also be published in a book. All this positive coverage (including the support we've had from **Web Designer**) has brought us thousands of visits daily and a number of new clients, which is the best feedback we could ask for."





Shout Digital



We're now moving away from a creative site to something a little more corporate

get across what the agency is about. In terms of 'Shout' my ethos was simple: a single word that people could spell easily, say quickly and remember. I looked at the URL for Shout as I think it's important that a company's URL matches the company name and discovered that Shout.com, was available for sale but the starting bid was £50,000. It was at that point I decided matching URLs weren't that important! Obviously we are a digital agency so Shout Digital came to mind and the .com domain was available so we purchased that. Ironically the .co.uk domain is owned by an entirely different agency (Shoutdigital), based in Weston-super-Mare, which is not a full-service agency but focuses on web development."

It goes without saying that the website of a digital agency is paramount to its success. Boon gives an insight into the thinking and intentions behind the first Shout Digital online presence.

"It's really important what your website says about you. When we first started the agency, we came from a position where we had no portfolio at Shout Digital despite having very experienced staff members who had previously worked on some of the UK's biggest brands. We tried to create a website which was a bit different to what other agencies had, so we went down a very creative route and were a little quirky with what we had on the site. The aim was to get noticed not only for being different but for using our

website to showcase our creativity and capability. We were included in the 365 best websites in the world list on Awwwards.com for this site.

"We are now moving away from having a creative site to something a little more corporate to help people understand that we are not just creative but also very technical and strategic in what we do and the services that we offer. Since we started the company three years ago we haven't updated the website in terms of our portfolio, so now we feel it is important to showcase our wide variety of work. This will include losing the Shout 'monsters' and focus on showcasing who we are, what we've done and, most importantly, what we can do for our clients."

Agencies are nothing without their customers. Boon reveals how the company avoided traditional business development and grew organically.

"The way we have worked [since we set up shop] is not traditional business development. We have grown

34 profile













very quickly, organically. Originally the agency won small projects through people we knew and doing well on those led to more and more referrals and the growth of the agency over the past three years has been purely on the back of these.

"Going forward, however, it's going to be much more structured, targeted and thought through. Referrals will still be important and we hope to continue to bring in work that way but now we are able to supplement these with a proper business development approach. We have recently brought in a business development manager who will help to strategically target specific businesses off the back of the strong portfolio we have built under the Shout Digital name. Every agency says they are great at what they do but now we have a portfolio to prove it."

Projects can come in all shapes and sizes. Boon explains how there is no commission that Shout wouldn't consider taking on.

"Digital is so important across any spectrum of business that I wouldn't turn anyone away. There is no piece of work that we wouldn't take on, but it is whether or not our services would price certain projects out of the water. We work with SMEs as well as larger, more well-known brands such as *OKI* magazine, so we won't preclude going for blue-chip names as clients, as we want to work across a whole spectrum and we firmly believe we can do that."

With a project agreed upon, it's down to work. Boon reveals how the workload is divvied up and how they continue testing even after a site has gone live.

"In terms of what takes the longest, it really is an even split as all facets of the projects - from the creative to the technical - are equally important. Projects can run from a number of weeks through to a year depending on what the client requires. In terms of the way things are divided up, they are split between discovery, user experience, understanding



66 We don't overly use HTML5 because it is early days for it; support is not universal and many users might not have the latest browsers to be able to use this technology

profile 35





SEO is important, but if you have a product or service which you want to sell then you need to look at other channels

the clients' client and business analysis, visualisation of the website, imagery and, in conjunction with that, the technical designs to get the best out of the strategy to achieve its goals.

"We have a great mix of highly skilled individuals who specialise in different areas such as online marketing, user experience design, account management and so on, so as a team we are all assigned to projects depending on the specific skills that are required. Time wise, even though a project might be complete, it doesn't end there. We continue to test the site over the following months to ensure that its functions meet the needs of the client and fix anything that we need to on an ongoing basis."

Creative talent besides, a project is powered by the software an agency chooses to adopt. Boon reveals the different digital toolsets that they work with day to day to take a project from start to finish.

"From the creative side of things we are Adobe-centric in that we will use applications like Fireworks to create project assets for imagery and then we will use different types of development environments for individual projects. For example, we would use Xcode for developing iPhone applications, while we would use Microsoft Visual Studio to develop web applications. Although generally we are Adobe focused from a creative point of view, it really does depend on the digital channel we are working on and if we are targeting the web or mobile platforms such as Android, BlackBerry, iPhone, etc. So in that instance, we would be bespoke as we like to consider who our clients are targeting and work to that specification using the appropriate tools to do it."

Once a project is complete it's time to hand over to the client. Boon gives the lowdown on the process and the level of aftercare the agency provides.

"We try to be collaborative all the way through a project so that the client gets early access to different parts of the website as we are working on it. This means they can test it while it is still in progress and come back to us with any [amendments] they might have. We work very closely with the client through a user testing phase until the 'go live' date and then afterwards for a number of months to fix any issues. Most clients usually go on to a retainer to ensure ongoing support and so we can continuously update the software. We are completely customer focused and the level of commitment and transparency we give to our clients. I think is unmatched by any other agency. We get the right people on the project and always ensure we are very much involved in the twoway conversation at all stages."

It may have had some setbacks recently, but Flash is still a platform that Shout Digital utilises. Boon tells us why and what the app still has to offer.

"If you take our original website, we had lots of animations that were easier to deliver in Flash. You can do a level of that with HTML5, but the reason why we don't overly use HTML5 is because it is early days for it; support is not universal and many users might not have the latest browsers to be able to use this

36 profile









KEY PROJECT

St Ermin's Hotel

The pressure was on to create a website that was just as classy as the luxury establishment

Shout Digital created a slick new website for four-star hotel St Ermin's in Westminster to accompany the completion of the grade-II listed Victorian hotel's recent £30-million refurbishment.

One of London's oldest and most deluxe hotels, the new visual design and restructure of the site has complemented the overall marketing strategy by vastly increasing its conversion levels - doubling its online revenue since going live.

Seeing off stiff competition from six leading international hotel web-design specialists, Shout Digital was the agency chosen to redesign the whole frontend and also build a new content management system that was in line with St Ermin's new look.

Discussing this important project, Gary Boon reveals: "Our ultimate objective was to help attract visitors to the site to then book the hotel, without looking like it was overly focused on sales. One way we did this was by making it much easier to navigate towards the reservation page.

"Because we were able to build the website incorporating user experience processes in all of our designs, we could maximise the success of the online marketing, improve SEO and therefore increase conversions." You can check out the deluxe final result for yourself at www.sterminshotel.co.uk.

technology. Flash still allows a level of creativity that isn't there with HTML5 and CSS3. However, mobile has certainly started to marginalise Flash as a greater level of content is consumed on portable devices. In essence, we're very customer focused for our clients and try to target the widest audience possible for them – so we will use whichever platform is best for the project at hand."

Of course the popular alternatives to Flash are HTML5, CSS3 and jQuery; are these something that Shout will be adopting more frequently?

"Both on the desktop and mobile web is where you will increasingly see a mixed use of HTML5, CSS3, jQuery, etc, and Flash will begin to decline in all areas. Smartphones already support the latest technologies rather than Flash through the mobile versions of the latest browsers, so we will build mobile sites leveraging those technologies. Again, it all comes back to understanding the audience and which channels/media their customers are using to consume the content."

Responsive design is a technique that looks to resolve the desktop/mobile conundrum. Boon offers an insight into how Shout Digital deals with the issue. "Responsive web design is a complex

area in terms of delivering a solution that ultimately needs to work on different devices and associated resolutions. From a digital marketing perspective companies need to be delivering their content across this broad spectrum. Unfortunately responsive web design means there isn't a one-size-fits-all [approach any more], so we work with our clients to deliver either a full responsive design or a best-fit for their needs and budget."

Getting a live site seen is crucial to its success. Shout Digital's MD reveals the things that need to be considered for maximum engagement.

"There is definitely more to it than just search engine optimisation. It's more about looking at all marketing activities that you can undertake. The biggest channel for audience engagement is still TV adverts. SEO is important, but if you have a product or service which you want to sell then you need to look at other channels by complementing your online marketing which will help get the brand name out there. Companies need to look at where they want to position their business/product and constantly seek new channels or other forms of advertising that will help engage with their target audience."



profile 37

Keeping track of your content and understanding how to improve performance is critical to today's internet. This month we focus on one of the most important allies for webmasters worldwide and how you can exploit its diverse toolset

ow do you measure a website? about pixels, negative space, casual browser might feel compelled by the amount of video or level of Facebook integration. But if we're not talking about the physical size or perceived entertainment value, then the more obvious characterisation is surely how the site is used.

Way back when the internet opened its metaphorical doors and invited us to add primitive homepages to its blossoming network, there was little thought to how it would perform. You hoped people would firstly find it,

scan the limited content and feel vaguely amused A designer might say that it's all enough to come back and maybe pass on a link. It was only when the first embeddable traffic counters monetisation of content and how site behaviour can be accessibility, colour - whereas a emerged that the volume of visitors, or 'hits', piqued our leveraged for advertising purposes. If we don't know interest, as well as the potential value this data may have.

> Fast-forward to the present day and the whole concept of web metrics has become far more

sophisticated than a crudely animated speedometer. This is really down to two things, with the first being the why our website does well how it does it when and where, then we actually bypass a huge driver in the commercial appeal of online business.

"FAST-FORWARD TO THE PRESENT DAY AND THE CONCEPT OF WEB METRICS HAS **BECOME FAR MORE SOPHISTICATED"**

feature



Combine this with the rise of Google, a company that understood the first point so well, and you then have an infrastructure, or ecosystem, where web metrics can be harvested at no cost. Google Analytics (GA) delivers a free toolset that any URL can utilise to track key statistics, but crucially have them fed back visually across a series of reports. In this feature we'll present a thorough overview of GA's capabilities, from setting it up, explaining the tools on offer and the results they produce, but also what it can imply for ramping up the effectiveness of your site(s). Once you get the hang of measuring web success this way, you'll find it a pretty addictive method for driving traffic in and, equally vital, keeping it there.

STARTING WITH GOOGLE ANALYTICS

There's not much you need to get started with Google Analytics, apart from a website and an HTML editor. It's a free service (unless you're running a very large and very busy site), and all you need to sign up is a Google Account. While a Google Account is essential it doesn't need to be your primary account, so you can keep things separate from your personal Gmail address.

Signing up is relatively simple. Start by logging on to Google Analytics and giving your account a name. Accounts can be connected to multiple sites on multiple domains, so while most organisations will want a separate account for each site, you can just use one account to track all the sites and domains used by a single service. You'll need to configure an initial URL either http or https. There's also support for applications that aren't websites, when you want to use Google Analytics with an app or a service on IOS or Android devices. Google will use this information to configure a tracking ID that you'll add to your page content.

Google gives you the option of sharing your analytics data with other Google products you use, so you are able to fine-tune advertising with AdSense and AdWords. There's also the possibility of sharing data with the rest of Google, as part of an anonymous benchmarking project. While benchmarking is useful, and lets you compare your site with others in the same industry or market, you may not want to share data at this stage. Choose where you're based to accept the appropriate terms of service - and read them carefully. You'll see that the service is free for up to 10 million page views a month, though Google does reserve the right to add supplementary fees for additional services.

You're now ready to hit the Create Account button. Google Analytics drops you straight in to the settings page for your site, where you'll see the tracking ID it uses. While Google provides JavaScript code for your pages, some CMSes and blogs have Google Analytics modules



THE TRACKER SNIPPET

WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CODE YOU NEED TO ATTACH THE GOOGLE ANALYTICS TRACKING CAPABILITIES TO YOUR WEBSITE

The tracking snippet required when attaching Google Analytics to your website really centres around ten key lines of code. Previously this was inserted into the <body> of the page, however it must now be placed just before the closing </ head> tag. This new method facilitates asynchronous tracking of a page and therefore leverages asynchronous syntax via the gag object. This is essentially a command queue that accepts API calls for when Google Analytics (specifically ga.is) is ready to perform them. The _gag.push() method, which often appears in the first part of the <script> snippet, is therefore used to invoke various methods. These are not essential, but are most useful when telling GA to handle certain search keywords or other search engines when compiling reports. Below we break down the basic listing and some optional statements, but first we underline a few key tips for adding it to your pages:

- The tracker snippet should go just before the closing
- Other scripts should be placed before the tracker snippet within the <head> for optimum performance
- Google Analytics only tracks pages that contain the tracker snippet. Copy and paste into each <head> section or use includes
- Place the tracker snippet within header.php for WordPress-based websites
- You must add your assigned Google Analytics web property ID, obtained during the initial registration phase.

```
001 */ BASIC TRACKER LISTING WITH COMMENTS
002
003 <script type="text/javascript">
004 var _gaq = _gaq || [];
005 //Below, where X requires your Google
Analytics web property ID
006 _gaq.push(['_setAccount', 'UA-
XXXXXXXX-X']);
007
008 //Optional statements (see below)
would go here
010 //Main logic for GATC (Google Analytic
Tracker Code)
011 _gaq.push(['_trackPageview']);
012
013 (function() {
014 var ga = document.
createElement('script'); ga.type = 'text/
javascript'; ga.async = true;
     ga.src = ('https:' == document.
    location.protocol ? 'https://ssl' :
'http:// www') + '.google-analytics.com/
ga_js'; var s = document.
      getElementsByTagName('script')[0];
    s.parentNode.insertBefore(ga, s);
016 })();
017 </script>
```

CONTINUED

feature _____39



OPTIONAL STATEMENTS

Alongside the basic snippet, there's a series of asynchronous methods used to pass certain parameters that dictate how GA interprets certain data. These are largely concerned with how associated search keywords, engines and sister sites are fed into the reports.

Often you'll want to include discernible search attempts to access your pages as direct traffic as opposed to generic keywords, while access via an associated sister website (perhaps within the same organisation) is again classified as direct rather than referred.

ADD METHODS

001 //Example asynchronous method for _ addIgnoredOrganic() for defining terms as direct traffic but excluded from Keywords reports

002 _gaq.push(['_addIgnoredOrganic', 'web designer magazine']);

003 _gaq.push(['_addIgnoredOrganic', 'web designer']);

004 _gaq.push(['_addIgnoredOrganic', 'webdesignermag.co.uk']); 005

006 //Used to exclude a source as a referring site, treated instead as direct traffic

007 _gaq.push(['_addIgnoredRef', 'www. imagine-publishing.co.uk']);

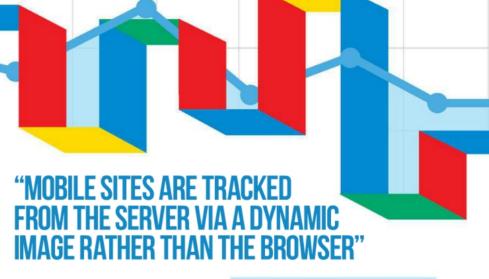
008 //Adds search engine to be included as new organic source where newOrganicSource is the engine, newOrganicKeyword the Keyword name, opt_prepend a boolean value for adding engine to the engine to the beginning of the organic list if true, or the end if false (default)

009 _gaq.push(['_addOrganic', 'newOrganicEngine', 'newOrganicKeyword', 'opt_prepend']);

CLEAR METHODS

001 //Clears strings previously set for exclusion from Keyword reports 002 _gaq.push(['_clearIgnoredOrganic']); 003 //Clears items previously set for exclusion from Referring Sites report 004 _gaq.push(['_clearIgnoredRef']); 005 //Clears all search engines as organic sources

006 _gaq.push(['_clearOrganic']);



that configure your pages for you. All you need to do in that case is copy the code and then drop it into the appropriate control panel on your site or host. If you're adding code to your site directly there are three options: Standard, Advanced and Custom. The Standard option is the one you're most likely to use, as it gives you a simple section of JavaScript code that you can copy into the head sections of the pages (or into your HTML template). You'll need to insert the code into every page you're tracking, so taking advantage of the templating tools in Dreamweaver or another HTML design package can simplify the process considerably.

You'll need to define just what you're tracking before you can add the code to your site. Are you looking at a single domain, or one domain with multiple subdomains, or a site that maps multiple top-level domains? You'll also need to choose whether you're using the code alongside any AdWords campaigns. Once you've picked the options you want, cut and copy the Google Analytics JavaScript:

```
001 <script type="text/javascript">
002
003
      var gag = gag | | []:
004
      _gaq.push(['_setAccount', 'Your
```



The code goes at the end of the <head> block of each page, just before the closing </head> tag.

ADVANCED CONFIGURATION

The Advanced view adds tools for measuring mobile sites, with support for various server-side programming languages (including PHP, Perl, JSP and ASPNET). Mobile sites are tracked from the server using a dynamic image rather than the browser as some mobile browsers don't support JavaScript. Most modern mobile browsers should support the client-side code used by desktop browsers, but Google doesn't recommend using both versions of the tracking code on the same page - so you may wish to use browser-sniffing techniques to dynamically deploy the appropriate tracking code for your users' browsers. Getting analytics right for mobile can be complex, and it's well worth spending time to understand which mobile browsers are visiting your site before implementing any analytics code in your pages. Use your server logs to extract a list of the user agent strings from all the browsers visiting your site.



Google Analytics is a free cloud-hosted set of metrics tools for websites and mobile apps, designed to help you understand user behaviour and actions



If you're working with dynamic content, use the Advanced view to generate the appropriate code to drop into your page templates. Tracking dynamic sites is an important feature of Google Analytics, as it lets you see just how users move through a site, helping you optimise eCommerce paths. PHP-generated dynamic content needs a slightly different approach; instead of using JavaScript in your page templates, you'll need to save the tracking code as a separate PHP page, which you can then use with a PHP include statement to drop into your pages - though here it goes at the start of the <body> tag rather than the end of the <head>.

If you choose the Custom option then you can use the sample code in the editing window to create your own tracking script. If you need to start from scratch at any time just click the Clear changes text at the bottom of the window. All three options also let you cut and paste a pre-formatted email that can be sent to any third parties you may have working on your site.

A single Google account can manage many different site accounts, giving you one place to explore reports from all your different sites. You can also assign several users to an account, so while one might administer all your Google Analytics sites, reports can be accessed by users with specific responsibilities. Agencies will find this approach particularly useful, setting up a master account for the company and then giving users access to the reports they need for the clients they work with, without seeing the reports used for other sites

THE METRIC SYSTEM

It's no good having analytics tools attached to a site if you don't know what you're looking forl You can measure everything, and anything, but without understanding what each metric is, and what it means for your site, it might just as well be random noise

Once you've set up a site for tracking, you can go to the Home tab for the account. You'll see a basic dashboard, with the initial metrics for your site - though there won't be much on a first visit, as Google Analytics only tracks data from the time you've added the tracking code to a page/site. The basic dashboard gives you a quick overview of the last month's traffic, showing daily visits, the average time spent on your site by a visitor, the key sources of traffic and where visitors are coming from (as well as how long each country spends on your site). You also get to see what proportion of visits come from mobile devices

Each widget on the dashboard graphs a different metric and you can click in to get a fuller report. It's a good idea to build your own custom dashboard, pulling in the metrics you want to use. We'd recommend starting with the Google Analytics Standard Reporting view. Click through to see the key audience metrics for your site: visits, unique visitors, pageviews, pages/visit, average time on site, bounce rate and new visits. Sparklines give you an immediate overview of the trend for each of these metrics. Google defines them as:

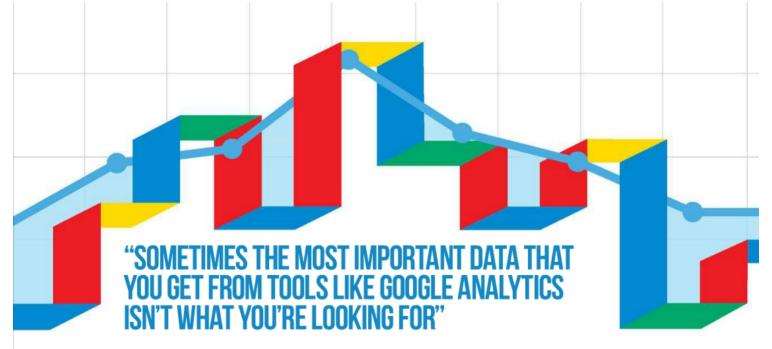
- VISITS: The total number of visits to your page. If a user is inactive for half an hour or more any future activity is treated as a new session (visit)
- PAGEVIEWS: How many times the pages on your site have been viewed
- · PAGES/VISIT: This shows how many pages users view when they come to your website
- . BOUNCE RATE: This shows the percentage of users that left after viewing only one page on your site
- · AVERAGE TIME ON SITE: This indicates how long each user spent on your site
- NEW VISITS: This shows the percentage of your users that have not visited the site before.

You can change the date range for the various graphs and also ont to compare different date ranges - helping. you see the effects of a new site design or your latest





feature



advertising campaign. Indeed, that's one of the most important features of Google Analytics - the ability to compare sections of data

Not all sites are HTML, of course, and Google has tools for tracking more than just standard page content. You can use scripts to track events or virtual pageviews for downloads (so you can track content in PDF form), while other tools also handle outbound links from your site (so you can track the users you're handling over to partners, for example, as part of a revenue sharing deal). You're also able to use scripts and libraries to track inside Flash movies or eCommerce shopping carts.

DASHBOARDS

By far the easiest way to customise Google Analytics is using dashboards. These let you drop widgets onto one of 20 dashboards per profile, with each widget showing a graph or a table for a particular set of dimensions and metrics. Chart options include pie charts and timelines, while there's also the option of just showing a particular metric. You can add filters to widgets, as well as treating custom reports as widget contents.

Each dashboard can cover a different time frame, set using the time control in the top-right of the screen. You can set a custom view or a relative range; relative ranges simplify using dashboards, as they give you all the relevant data for the last week or month. You can also choose to compare dashboard contents to the same data from a different time period, using the Compare to past feature. Specific dashboards can be assigned to specific users too – but at the moment need to be created in that account, as you're currently unable to share dashboards with other users.

THE STANDARD REPORT

At the bottom of the Standard report are a set of tables that give you a quick overview of key demographic and system metrics. You can use the demographic tools to see the languages used by your users, helping define your internationalisation strategy. Other useful data includes their country of origin and even the cities they come from. Extra features let you see the service providers used, which can give you an idea of the effect of proxies and the like on your site operations.

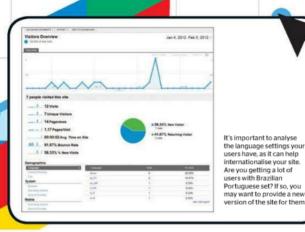
Choosing the System option lets you see the browsers that visitors are using, along with operating systems and service providers. You can click on any entry to drill down further, seeing how your site usage metrics break down across different browsers. Opting for a secondary dimension, you can extract details of the specific version used, the underlying operating system – even the number of screen colours and the resolution (plus if there's support for Java and Flash). Mobile users are similarly broken down by operating system and screen resolution.

Sometimes the most important data that you get from tools like Google Analytics isn't what you're looking for. That's where the service's automated Intelligence Events come in. Google Analytics triggers an alert when there's any significant changes in traffic patterns on your site - whether it's a sudden spike in the number of users or if it's a change in the bounce rate. You can use this information to correlate sudden shifts with changes in your site or advertising campaigns - or even with the release of a new browser or mobile device.

Alerts don't necessarily have to be automatically generated either; instead, you can create your own custom reports. All you need to do is set up an alert for a specific metric - for example, if you get over a set number of pageviews in a certain amount of time, or if pageviews spike by a specific percentage, etc. Then



42_____feature



choose how often you want any alerts to be generated - whether that's daily, weekly or monthly. Alerts can be sent by email, or if you're in the US, by text message.

CUSTOM REPORTS

While the default reports and dashboards are packed with useful information, you can also create your own reports. Like working with any desktop business analytics tool you'll need to start by defining the dimensions - things like visitor type, the referring site or a specific page URL. Once you've chosen your report dimensions you can then select the appropriate metrics for each dimension you've used. Google provides a useful tool that lists the dimensions and metrics used by Google Analytics, along with the valid combinations check it out here: http://tinvurl.com/coreapi. A custom report can have up to five dimensions and up to 25 metrics. You can add filters so that users can explore data, as well as bringing in metrics for other sites you're analysing. Reports can be added to dashboards or exported as a CSV file for further analysis.

More complex reporting and data comes when you start adding goals to Google Analytics. Goals are what Google Analytics uses to determine whether a website is meeting your targets. Once a goal is achieved by a user it's counted as a conversion. There are currently four types of goal that you can set:

 URL DESTINATION: This is a specific page that a user has viewed; for instance, this might be the checkout page for an eCommerce shopping cart

- TIME ON SITE: This is the total amount of time a user spends on your website, or on a specific section of your site. You could use this to see how long they spend browsing your catalogue, for example
- PAGES/VISIT: This is the number of pages you expect a user to look at on your website, or the amount you'd like them to be reading. It's a good metric to use for a content-heavy site
- EVENT: If you've set up event tracking, this is triggered
 if a user completes the event for example,
 downloading a music track or a PDF.

Goals can be grouped into sets, and these can be used to manage tracking a host of different targets for your site. Each Google Analytics profile can have up to four different sets of goals, with a maximum of five goals per set. Goals have a value, set by the number of conversions and the numeric value of the metric associated with the goal. If you're using a URL destination goal you can also set up a Goal Funnel - the series of pages you intend a user to take to reach the destination. You can use this to see where users drop out of the process, enabling you to pinpoint which pages need investigating further to improve conversions - and increase your site revenue.

TIME TO GET REAL-TIME

The latest update to Google Analytics is GA Real-Time, a tool that shows current activity on your site. At this moment, the feature is in beta but is ready for use. It's best thought of as a tool for dynamic sites, so if you're running a news blog or similar, you can use it to quickly

"GOALS ARE WHAT GOOGLE ANALYTICS USES TO DETERMINE WHETHER A WEBSITE IS MEETING YOUR TARGETS"

KEEPING IT REAL-TIME



The Google Analytics Real-Time view lets you see just who is on your site, where they're from and how they got there – as well as giving you a look at the rate of page views over the last few minutes and seconds



Once you're using Real-Time, you can drill down for additional data, like plotting user locations on a large map. If you're driving content socially you can use this to work out where and when to target your next update



You can use the Real-Time view to show the sources of clicks on your site. Are users coming from search, from links or from social media services? You can also find out where you get the most traction, eg Facebook or Twitter?



Real-Time will also show the pages your users are seeing. If you're running a campaign it'll reveal if visitors are on target pages or if they're elsewhere on your site

feature _____43

ANALYTICS GLOSSARY

BRINGING INSTANT MEANING TO THE JARGON USED IN WEB METRICS

BOUNCE RATE

The percentage of visitors who enter a specific site, then leave or 'bounce' without viewing any other pages within the same website.

EXIT RATE

Describes the percentage of visitors who actively click away to a different site from a specific page, having previously visited any other pages on the first site.

WEB TRAFFIC

Typically refers to the amount of data sent and received between a visitor and a target website.

HITS

More specifically describes the request for a file from a web server. Hits are often used to establish a website's popularity.

REAL-TIME

As it happens, at this exact moment, offering feedback on what is currently happening live rather than what's happened in the past.

WEB METRICS

The particular study and analysis of online data for the purpose of optimising performance.

VISIT/SESSION

A series of page requests from one uniquely identifiable source, often logged over a pre-defined period of time.

UNIQUES

Relates to those visitors to a site defined as being unique, most commonly on the basis of stored cookies.

SINGLETONS

Number of visits where only a single page of a site is viewed before a bounce.

PAGEVIEW/IMPRESSION

A request to load a single HTML document from the web server, or a dynamically loaded element within a page.

ENGAGEMENT

Denotes activity and actual interaction with a page and the time a visitor may spend 'engaging' with the content.

FREQUENCY

The measure of how often visitors log on to a website roughly calculated by dividing the number of visits by the number of uniques.

REPEAT VISITOR

A visitor known to have made at least one previous visit to a specific site or page.

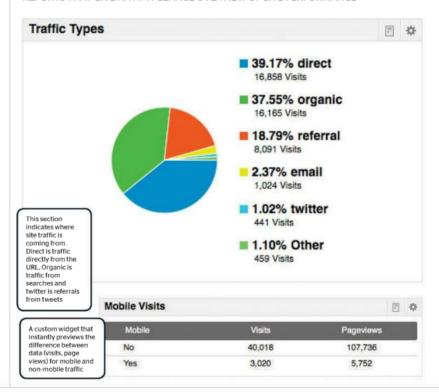
REFERRAL

Where a visit is the result of a recommended or referred link from a third-party source.



My Dashboard

THE GOOGLE ANALYTICS DASHBOARD LETS YOU QUICKLY SEE JUST WHAT YOUR USERS ARE DOING, WITH A SET OF CUSTOMISABLE WIDGETS AND REPORTS THAT GIVE AN AT-A-GLANCE OVERVIEW OF SITE PERFORMANCE



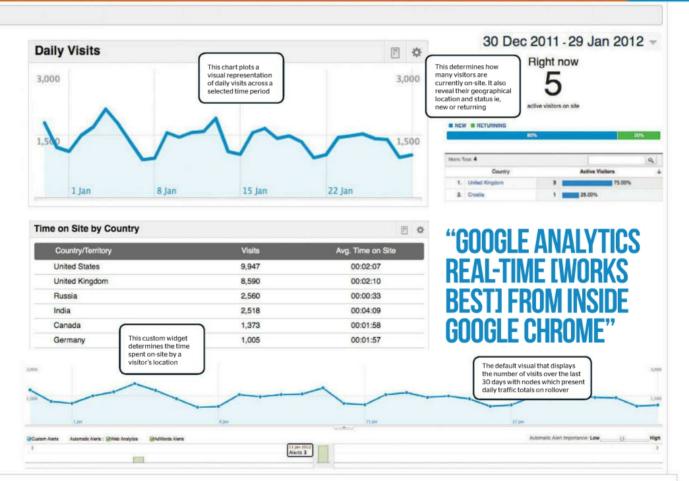
track the viral nature of a story, watching the effect of it passing through social networks, seeing where it gets the most traction and watching where it gets re-linked.

Google Analytics Real-Time gives you a basic report view, with a single dashboard that shows the current number of active visitors on a site, indicating which are new visitors as well as those that are returning. You get a look at the referrers they've used to come to your site

too, and you can see how services like Twitter and Facebook drive engagement. Alternatively, if you're using services like AdWords to bring visitors to your website, you can uncover the keywords that users are clicking on, helping you to refine campaigns. There's a lot you can do with both these pieces of information. You can use the first to determine just when a Twitter account should post, or a Facebook page update, while

44 feature





the second can help to reduce your advertising costs by enabling you to target your spend appropriately.

Other parts of the Real-Time reports show pageviews per minute and per second, along with a dynamic map that displays precisely where your viewers are located around the globe. The map may, at first glance, appear to be eye-candy, but it's actually a super-useful pointer to understanding which parts of the world are likely to

engage with content at various times of the day. For example, a breaking item may need to be reposted on social networks to catch both European and American peak interactions. You can drill down into this data more deeply, seeing the countries you get the most interaction from. Two other views show traffic sources and the content that was viewed, letting you focus on the metrics that matter to you from hour to hour.

There's one thing to note with Google Analytics Real-Time: while it works in all modern browsers, you will get the best look and feel from inside Google's own Chrome.

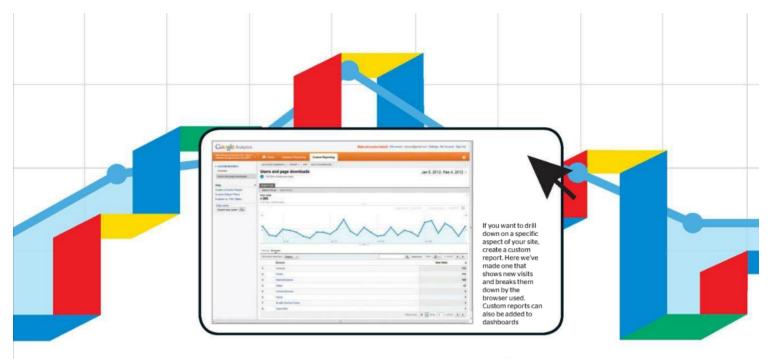
GOOGLE Analytics

USING YOUR DATA

Using the data you get back from Google Analytics can be harder than getting the service running or building



feature 45



reports. Raw data is all very well, but how can you sort the wheat from the chaff and ultimately transform it into ways of making your site more efficient?

The real key to using a tool like Google Analytics is asking the right questions. If you're concentrating on the effects of an advertising campaign you should take advantage of its comparison tools to ask (and answer) questions about the reach of a campaign and its effect on your traffic. Alternatively, a designer could use reports to understand just how optimising the site for specific browsers affects its usage, or to help tweak a mobile version of a site to attract more than just iPhone users.

Understanding which browsers your visitors are using can also help modify sites to take advantage of the latest HTML5 technologies. If you're finding the majority of your users are operating HTML5-capable browsers, you can start to migrate site support away from older, less capable browsers and take advantage of the more modern approach to site design, while still monitoring the effects of changes on older browsers. You can also keep close tabs on how changes affect how long users stay on the site, plus how they interact with eCommerce and other key features.

Getting to grips with your mobile users is increasingly becoming more important and the host of tools in Google Analytics will help you optimise your site for mobile devices. Knowing which devices they use is crucial, and you can get a feel for that from the breakdown between the different mobile operating systems. However, while iPad and iPhone get different entries, all Android devices are batched together, whether they're tablet or phone. As a result, you'll need to drill down into screen sizes to determine the percentage of tablet users visiting your site in order to come up with the best possible layout.

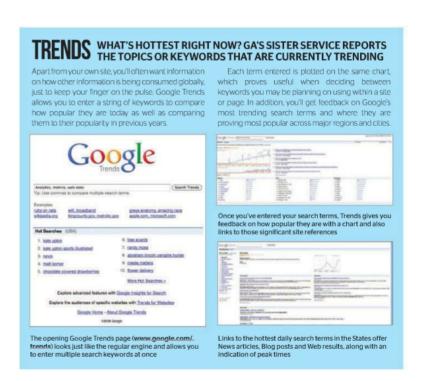
It's important to remember that Google Analytics isn't a performance-measurement tool. You won't get details of how pages load on users' browsers or how your site handles heavy load. For that you'll need a separate user-experience testing tool and some additional business analytics software (which can be something as widely available as Excel) to combine the results from different tools and give you a greater insight into your site's

operations. Google Analytics lets you export your data in a number of different ways, ready for you to use as part of your overall site-measurement process.

One useful option is to link GA to Google's Webmaster Tools. This lets you see SEO and search data as part of your Analytics, helping you tune site content to both appear in searches, and attract and retain visitors. Getting the content that works well for both can be difficult, so any tools that help you find that balance can prove invaluable. The result is a site that looks and feels natural, avoiding the stilted nature of pure SEO-driven content, while still appearing high in search results.

LETTING YOUR USERS KNOW

Google Analytics is a useful and important option for any site that needs to track and manage usage. However anyone using the service needs to be aware of the effects of an European Union directive on cookies, which the UK Information Commissioners Office will enforce. As Google Analytics sets a first-party cookie, you'll only need to inform users and get consent once. However, If you've opted into the benchmarking service, you will also need additional consent for this, as tracking information is shared with third parties.



46______feature

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- ✓ Sell servers in real time

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- ▼ 10GB storage
- ✓ Transfer in Exchange 2003 & 2007 easily
- Sell Exchange in real time

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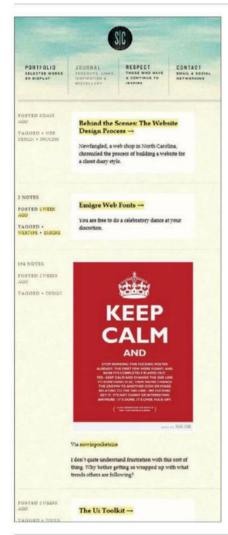
Call us: 0845 644 7750

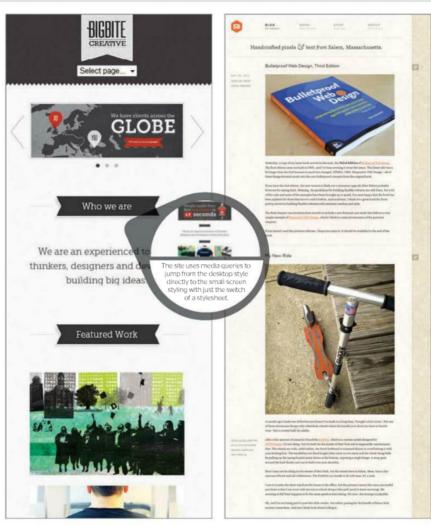




Responsive design blogs

From desktop to tablet to smartphone, the online experience is no longer tied to a





Stephen Caver

http://stephencaver.com

Development platform HTML, CSS, jQuery

This is more of a journal than a blog, though in many cases there is little difference. It uses a limited selection of components to create the basis of the page and adds in some icons and backgrounds to round off an effective and eyecatching site. On mobile devices users see a simple rearrangement of page elements to create an even better-looking version than the desktop.

Big Bite Creative

http://bigbitecreative.com

Development platform WordPress

The clean design is perfectly complemented by a selection of retro ribbons, subtle textures, a subdued colour palette and bold fonts. The layout is a single centralised column headed up by an ever-popular image slider. The whole context of the site lends itself to the small screen with all the content shifting to the middle – ideal for viewing on smartphones.

SimpleBits

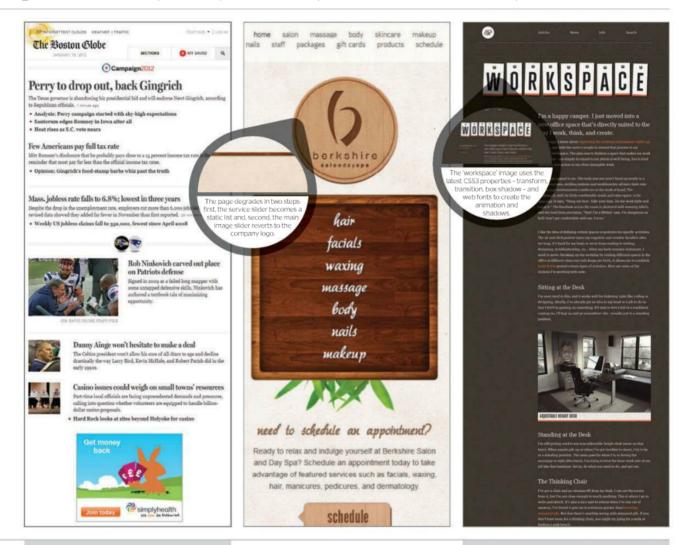
http://simplebits.com

Development platform HTML, CSS, jQuery

SimpleBits is exactly that - a simple blog layout with titles, images and text. The site uses a single column with a very subtle texture and shadow for depth. To emphasise the blog a complementary repeating background completes the canvas. As the screen size shrinks the text simply wraps and the navigation takes up a central position demonstrating a more subtle use of media queries.

Get your site seen, or suggest Tweet a 140 with your blog's address directly to 🕦 @webdesignermag a theme **Email your suggestions to** webdesigner@imagine-publishing.co.uk

single size. Here we pick six prime examples of the art in their responsive states...



The Boston Globe

www.bostonalobe.com

Development platform HTML, CSS, JavaScript

The Boston Globe is a typical newspaper/magazine web presence using a white background, black text and an old English style title font. The layout is again typical newspaper, but where the site excels is on the small screen. The big tabbed navigation menu scales down neatly and fits at the top of the page with all the content neatly stacked below for easy reading.

Berkshire Salon Day Spa

www.berkshiresalondavspa.com

Development platform Drupal

Early adopters of web technologies and trends are typically from within the industry, making this spa site something of a rarity. A big image slider dominates the desktop version along with the wood and plant theme to emphasise the organic brand. The liquid layout neatly reduces the content to create a user-friendly scaled-down version, minus the image slider of the desktop layout.

Trent Walton

http://trentwalton.com

Development platform WordPress

On the face of it there's nothing too fancy here - just good clean semantic design with a subtle Seventies colour palette and well-matched textures. The animated title is an astute touch giving a solid focal point. This image neatly scales with the browser and the text wraps to create a concise small-screen experience with easy access to the navigation.

49 blogbeautiful

<tutorials>

Cutting-edge navigation effects with CSS3 alone

Animate menus without any plug-ins, scripts or Flash - just cascading styles

tools | tech | trends Graphic editor (eg Photoshop), HTML editor (we used Dreamweaver, but any will do) expert Sam Hampton-Smith



The basic HTML

The first thing we need to do is get a solid base down. We've opted for a very basic HTML page that features a <div> containing an unordered list with navigation links, plus two further <div>s: one for content and another for a heading. You can copy the full HTML from either the 'start.html' file or the 'Step code' folder, both of which can be found on this issue's cover disc.



Apply a stylesheet

You may have noticed that we've called in an external stylesheet, named styles, from a sub-folder. We need to create that stylesheet now, so open a new blank document and save it as 'screen.css' inside a sub-folder called 'styles' to match. Paste in the code – which is in full on the CD – to set the main page rules:

```
/* Advanced navigation effects with CSS3
002
        body {
003
           background:
                            #dedede:
004
           font-size:
                            62.5%
005
           font-family:verdana, helvetica,
    arial, sans-serif:
007
        #container {
008
           width: 960px:
009
           position:
                            relative:
```

Make a basic rollover

Part of fundamental user experience design is providing feedback when visitors interact with elements on your page. A classic example of this is the humble rollover, and it's on top of this core functionality that we'll be building all our effects here. Start off by adding the CSS code below to create a simple rollover that just swaps the background colour.

001	ul#nav li:hover {		
002	background:	#dcebeb	;
003	z-index:	1000;	
004	}		

Add some CSS3

One of the best things about the proposed CSS3 properties is the ability to transform elements in scale,





SS3 is maturing to the point that we can safely start using it for visual panache on the most fundamental elements of our websites. While it's still true that a reasonable percentage of users won't be able to see the extra aesthetic sparkle CSS3 can add, so long as you, as a designer, don't come to rely on CSS3 for the main functional aspects, the world is very much your oyster. The web is already abound with examples of this

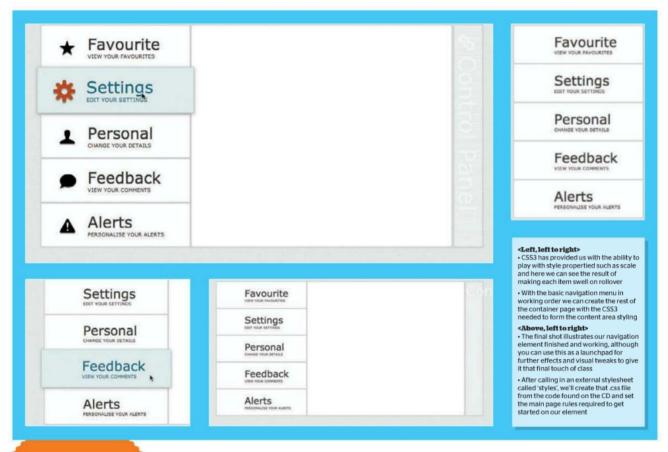
'progressive enhancement' in action, so there's no reason not to embrace the opportunity yourself.

In this tutorial we're going to take a basic unordered list that's being used as a navigation menu and give it a CSS3 power-up. The end result will respond with a nice tactility, taking advantage of native browser rendering to produce a smooth, polished animation. Most importantly, the effects we add will progressively enhance the UX, so if a user doesn't have a modern browser the menu will continue to work perfectly well.

While we're at it, we will also take the opportunity to have a quick look at embedded fonts, CSS-rendered background graphics and predefined CSS3 animations. Once you've completed this step-by-step, you'll be fully armed to add progressive enhancement to your own designs – so let's get going!

...so long as you, as a designer, don't rely on CSS3 for the main functional aspects, the world is very much your oyster **

Cutting-edge navigation effects with CSS3 alone



Convert your graphics to CSS

For automatically converting a graphic into a format you can embed in your stylesheet, check out this tool: http://tinyurl. com/uriconvertor. position or rotation. Let's add a bit of scale to our rollover so that, as we hover our mouse over the list

item, it gets a little bigger and also gains a drop shadow. The end result should be an apparent 'lifting' off the page. (We've only used the -webkit- browser prefix, but this will also work with -ms-and -moz- for IE and Firefox, respectively.)

001	ul#nav li:hover {
002	background: #dcebeb ;
003	-webkit-transform: translateY(-3px)
	scale(1.05);
004	-webkit-box-shadow: 0px 2px 7px
	#999;
005	box-shadow: 0px 2px 7px #999;
006	z-index: 1000;
007	3

Make it smooth

As well as fancy new transformation effects, CSS3 enables us to automatically create animations between two different states for an element. We set this up using the transition property and specify which elements to animate, over what period of time the animation should take place, and which animation speed to apply. Add the code below to the ul#nav li selector to create an auto animation:

001 -webkit-transition: all 0.15s linear;

06 A little more setup

We've got a basic navigation menu working nicely now, so let's get the rest of the page set up before we move on to more advanced CSS3 properties and animations. Add the CSS below to create the content area styling and set the remainder of the page up to match the main design. The full code is on the CD.

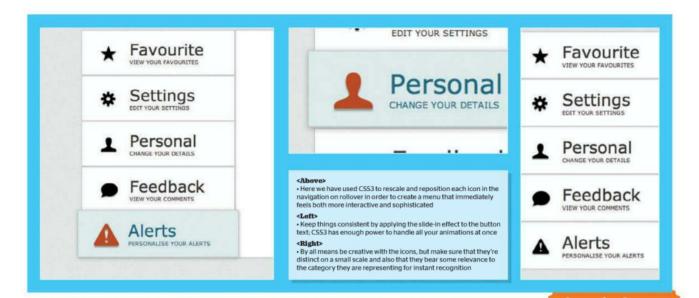
```
001 div#panel {
002 margin: 0 1px;
```

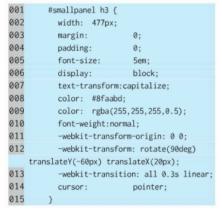
```
width: 560px;
004
           height:
                            477px;
005
           float: left;
006
           border:
                            2px solid #cfcfcf:
007
           background: #fefefe;
008
           -webkit-box-shadow: 0px 0px 4px
    #ccc;
009
           box-shadow: 0px 0px 4px #ccc;
010
011
        div#smallpanel {
012
           margin:
                            0 1px:
013
           width: 60px;
014
           height:
                             477px;
```

Get in a spin

The panels are looking great, but the title found within the small box isn't fitting correctly right now. We need to rotate the text through 90 degrees so that it reads vertically. Luckily we can do this using CSS3 once more. Again, the transform property lets us take control and position the heading as required. Change your CSS so that it reads as the following:

Cutting-edge navigation effects with CSS3 alone





Add some vector graphics

We thought that it could be good to add some visual icons that represent the different sections of our menu, but if we render standard JPEG, PNG or GIF files out, they'll look a little soft as we scale them up when moving a mouse over the list item. Instead, we can use a web font to render icons which act like vectors but can scale to any size while also remaining sharp. Have a browse at websymbols for a suitable font.

ng Download and install

Download the Web Symbols font (or something similar) from the site mentioned in the previous step and install it into your page by adding the step code to the top of your stylesheet. This imports the font into the page, enabling us to apply it to individual elements as if it were any other typeface in common use.

```
001
         @font-face{
002
           font-family: 'WebSymbolsRegular':
           src: url('fonts/websymbols-regular-
003
     webfont.eot');
004
           src: url('fonts/websymbols-
    regular-webfont.eot?#iefix')
    format('embedded-opentype'),
005
                url('fonts/websymbols-regular-
     webfont.woff') format('woff'),
006
               url('fonts/websymbols-regular-
     webfont.ttf') format('truetype'),
007
               url('fonts/websymbols-regular-
     webfont.svg#WebSvmbolsRegular'format('svg');
008
```

Pick your icons

Now we've got the font installed we can add an icon to the start of each list item. Add a <div> with a class of icon before each <a> tag in the navigation list and then add the CSS code below to assign the Web Symbols font to the icon class. Full code is on the disc.

```
001
          <!-- HTML -->
992
          ul id="nav">
             <div class="icon">R</
003
    div><a href="#" title="Click here
    for..."><h4>Favourite</h4> <span>View your
    favourites</span></a>
004
            <div class="icon">S</
    div><a href="#" title="Click here
    for..."><h4>Settings</h4> <span>Edit your
    settings</span></a>
            <div class="icon">lk/
005
    div><a href="#" title="Click here
    for..."><h4>Personal</h4> <span>Change your
```

details</ span>

We've used a special font to render the icons on our buttons in this guide. You can download the same one for free at www. justbenicestudio.com/ studio/websymbols.

Iconic fonts

Experiment

You'll notice that in our example code we've chosen

some letters to act as the content for our icon <div>s.
Each letter displays a different icon when rendered in
the Web Symbols font, so it's worth testing your page
and experimenting with various letters to find a pictorial
character that best matches your button.

Animate the icon

When the list item is rolled over we use CSS3 to scale it up and the transition property to animate that automatically. Let's do the same thing for the icon. By adding an animation to the icon as well as the list item, the icon will be subjected to two animations: one as a child of the list item and another as an icon. The result is a more complex-looking animation that looks less mechanical. Insert the CSS below:

```
001 ul#nav li:hover .icon {
002 -webkit-transform: scale(1.5);
003 color: #b7480c;
004 }
```

Take advantage of CSS3

Notice that we animated the scale of the icon so that it grows far more than the rest of the button, and also the colour. CSS3 is happy animating any CSS property for you, so you can achieve a nice smooth transition without any complex scripting required!

Cutting-edge navigation effects with CSS3 alone

Predefined animations

Sometimes it can be really useful to be able to specify a starting position and an ending position for an animation instead of just the starting and ending states. This enables us to have an animation launch from a set of properties other than the standard default. Just add in the code below to your stylesheet in order to create a preset animation:

```
001
         @-webkit-keyframes slideFromTop {
002
003
             opacity: 0;
004
              -webkit-transform:
    translateY(-200%);
005
006
           to {
007
             opacity: 1;
008
              -webkit-transform: translateY(0%);
aag
010
```

What does that do?

The code we just added in step 14 doesn't do anything by itself – however, if we apply the animation to the :hover state of an element, when we move our mouse over that element, the style will animate between being transparent – and 200% of the height above the element bounds – to being opaque and in the normal position. Add the following code to see this in action; once again, the complete code that you'll need can be found on the cover disc.

```
ul#nav li a h4 {
002
           margin:
                              0;
003
           padding:
                              0;
004
           font-size:
                              3em:
005
                             block:
           display:
006
           text-transform:capitalize;
007
           font-weight:normal;
008
```

Test and repeat

What we've just set up is an animation that applies to the <h4> element inside each list item. When you mouse over the item, the heading disappears and slides back into view. We can repeat this trick for the other element within our buttons. Add the code below to set up the animation preset:

```
@-webkit-keyframes slideFromRight {
002
           from {
003
             opacity: 0;
004
              -webkit-transform:
    translateX(200%);
005
006
           to {
007
             opacity: 1;
008
              -webkit-transform: translateX(0%);
009
010
```

Cross-browser friendly

Now we've got two different animation presets completed. Before we add the second preset to the text of the button, let's bring the other browsers up to speed by adding support with their own vendor prefixes. Add the code below to duplicate the animation presets for other non-WebKit browsers. The full code is on the CD.

Keep things consistent

Now that's in place, let's add the effect to the text. This works in exactly the same way as with the <h4> we saw a few steps back - we simply add the call to the preset and, when the user moves their cursor over the <i>, four animations in total will be called simultaneously. Find the full code on the cover disc.

```
001
         ul#nav li a h4 {
002
           margin:
                              a.
003
           padding:
                              0:
004
           font-size:
                              3em:
005
           display:
                              block:
006
           text-transform:capitalize;
007
           font-weight:normal:
008
```

Make some noise

The final few flourishes we need to set our page off to best effect are pretty basic but still worth having a close look at. First of all, the page feels quite clinical and flat now – it would be great to have some texture in the background, but not at the expense of download speed. Start off by creating a repeating textured background inside your favourite image editor (or, for convenience, grab ours from 'Texture graphics' on the disc).

Convert and deploy

Rather than include this image as an external reference as you would normally, we can embed it directly into the CSS, saving an extra call to the server and increasing rendering speed. Navigate to https://tinvurl.com/uriconvertor and upload your image to convert it to base64 code; copy this to your clipboard.

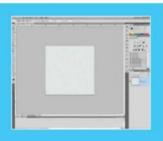
Paste 'n' go

Now you've got your base64 code, we need to apply it as a background image to the desired element. We've chosen to place our texture on the page background, so add the following step code (available in full on the CD) to your existing body {} CSS rules to apply the texture. Note that your base64 code may be slightly different to ours depending upon the texture graphic that you chose to upload.

```
001 body {
002     background: #dedede
     url(data:image/jpeg;base64,/9j/...)
003     repeat top left;
004     font-size:62.5%;
005     font-family:verdana, helvetica, arial, sans-serif;
006 }
```

Polish and test

Finish the page off by applying another texture to the small panel, an icon and an animation for the position and text shadow of the <h3> within. You should be able to do this without our help, but we've included the necessary code on the CD just in case you're not sure. Once done, test the menu in your browser and then just wallow in the CSS3 greatness!



Why embed images in your CSS stylesheets?

Back in the Nineties, when the web was only just starting to take off, bandwidth was all important. Website visitors were likely to be connecting by dial-up modem and so every aspect of a webpage needed to be carefully tailored to minimise download time.

While we've moved away from this extreme, it's still important to optimise your code to reduce the number of calls to the server and speed up page rendering - especially now that mobile is seriously taking off.

One way you can do this is to avoid rendering your background graphics in separate files. Each file adds server (and browser) overhead, so by opting to integrate the small background graphics that add a repeating image, noise or texture to your page, you can reduce the number of server calls and, as a result, speed up the overall performance of your page.

Integrate **BrowserID** into your website

Discover how this authentication framework is revolutionising logging in, doing away with user input fields

tools | tech | trends Dreamweaver, PHP, MySQL, JavaScript expert Pete Simmons







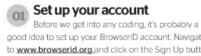
rowserID is Mozilla Labs' latest authentication framework.

Rather than relying on usernames and passwords for each website. BrowserID is able to log a user in to all BrowserID-supported sites a user visits based on an email address and a master password.

From a security perspective this is a massive bonus. With

BrowserID, you no longer have to rely on a site keeping your password safe; you have one password saved with BrowserID which is never submitted anywhere else. It also allows you to add multiple email addresses so you can combine all your accounts into one log-in system.

In this tutorial we reveal how to implement BrowserID into your site. Once it's up and running, we access a user's email address from their BrowserID sign-in and then offer the ability to save and retrieve data. We'll be using PHP, so you'll need a development server with the most recent version of PHP/MySQL or the latest version of XAMPP/WAMP installed as a localhost server.



good idea to set up your BrowserID account. Navigate to www.browserid.org and click on the Sign Up button. Enter your email address then click the Verify Email option. Open up the email from BrowserID and click the verification link. From here you will be prompted to provide your master password.

Build the login

The first step is to create an HTML log-in page that has a form and all the required BrowserlD dependencies. Onen up the template file from the disc and add the following line to the head section of the HTML file. Save this page out as 'index.html'; this will add the BrowserID library into your document.

001 <script src="https://browserid.org/include. js" type="text/javascript"></script>

Add the form

Place the following code underneath your h1 tag; this will add a simple BrowserID-enabled log-in form. The form itself contains no user inputs, just a clean and simple Submit button. This button will call the BrowserID JavaScript code that we'll be adding in the next step. The Submit button has been styled via CSS to show the BrowserID icon.

001 <h1>Log In Below</h1> <form action="login.php" method="post" id="browserid_form" onSubmit="return browserID();"> <input type="hidden" name="assertion" value="" id="browserid assertion" />

004 <input type="submit' value="Submit"> 005 </form>

BrowserID JavaScript

Now we have our form in place we need to add the JavaScript that gets called once the form is submitted. Add this code just before the closing </head> tag. This code makes a call to the BrowserID library and passes over the user's assertion value. There is also a level of error checking in place here.

```
001 <script type="text/javascript">
003 function browserID()
005 navigator.id.getVerifiedEmail(function(asse
rtion) {
006
        if (assertion) {
007
        document.getElementById('browserid_
assertion').value = assertion;
        document.getElementById('browserid_
form').submit():
009
       } else {
            alert('Could not complete
identification'):
011
012 });
013 return false;
014 }
015 -->
016 </script>
```

Test your index.html

Our index page is now complete; if you run it, you'll be able to see the BrowserID script in action.

Integrate BrowserID into your website



Clicking the Sign In button will produce a pop-up dialog that prompts a user for their credentials. Unfortunately we don't have our login.php page created yet so the script doesn't do anything.

Create the login.php page

In this step we'll be creating a new PHP document and adding our BrowserID class to it. The same outcome can be completed with individual functions, but classes are much neater. Add the following code to a new PHP document and save it as 'login.php'; these will be our class variables that get values assigned to them later.

```
001 <?php
002
003 class BrowserID
004 {
005 private $audience;
006 private $assertion;
007 private $email;
```

The first function

We'll now add our first function to our class. Add the following code below that from the previous step. This code forms the data sent from index.html correctly, ready to be sent over to BrowserlD and verified. This function uses fopen; you can use cURL if you prefer, but it may work out slightly more complicated.

```
008 }
009 else
010 {
011 return false;
012 }
013 }
```

Verifying data

This next section of code will do the verification needed to obtain data from BrowserlD. It takes the data formed from the code in the previous step and passes the URL needed to get the JSON data from BrowserlD. This data is then decoded and verified. We now have a user's email address from BrowserlD.

```
public function verify_assertion()
002
      {
003
        $parameters = http_build_
query(array('assertion' => $this->assertion,
'audience' => $this->audience));
004
        $result = json_decode($this->post_
request('https://browserid.org/verify',
$parameters), true, 2);
005
        if(isset($result['status']) &&
$result['status'] == 'okay')
006
       -{
007
          $this->email = $result['email'];
008
          return true:
009
010
        else
011
        {
012
          return false:
013
        }
014
```

Finish the class

The last step in our class is to add two more functions; these functions will assign the user's verified

data to an object we can use outside of the class. Add the following lines of code after the previous step, ensuring you close off the class with a curly bracket.

```
001 public function BrowserID($audience,
$assertion)
002 {
003
        $this->audience = $audience:
004
        $this->assertion = $assertion;
005
     }
006
007
      public function get_email()
008
009
        return $this->email:
010
011
012 }
013
014 ?>
```

Using our class

Now our class is completed it's time to use it.

Open up 'class_template.php' from the CD; this has our CSS and HTML template added to our class file. Save this out as 'login.php' and add the following code under the <body> tag. This will make a call to the BrowserID class and return the email address of the user, displaying an error if this fails for some reason.

```
001 <?
002 $browserid = new BrowserID($_
SERVER['HTTP_HOST'], $_POST['assertion']);
003
004
      if($browserid->verify_assertion())
005
        echo('<h2>Welcome '.$browserid->get_
006
email().'</h2>');
007
     3
008
     else
009
      {
010
        echo('<h2>Log In Failed</h2>');
011
012
013 ?>
```

Re-authenticating a user

Our code is working pretty well at the moment, but we need a way of re-authenticating a user, if they get logged out. To do this we need to make a call to our class on the page load. Add the following code underneath your class to redirect a user back to the index page if they get logged out.

```
001 $browserid = new BrowserID($_
SERVER['HTTP_HOST'], $_POST['assertion']);
002
003 if($browserid->verify_assertion())
004
005 {
006 $email = $browserid->get_email();
```

<tutorials>

Integrate BrowserID into your website

```
007  }
008  else
009  {
010    header('Location: index.html');
011  }
```

Using the data

You may have noticed in the previous step that we have now assigned the user's email address to the variable \$email so our welcome message can now be changed to the following code. The next step is to set up a MySQL database and add data that we can retrieve based on an authenticated user email address.

001 <h2>Welcome <?= \$email; ?></h2>

Set up MySQL

Using your MySQL admin panel, create a new database. Once you have your database in place, run the following SQL command to generate a new table complete with fields. We will then add values to this through our frontend.

```
001 CREATE TABLE 'userdata' (
002 'email' VARCHAR( 255 ) NOT NULL ,
003 'name' VARCHAR( 255 ) NOT NULL ,
004 'console' VARCHAR( 12 ) NOT NULL
005 PRIMARY KEY ( 'email' )
006 ) ENGINE = MYISAM ;
```

Data entry form

The next thing to do is to add a form to our login,php page that enables users to enter data into the new database. This form will be the only thing shown to users who visit the site for the first time; for existing users the form will be used as a means of updating this content. Add the code below in the box2 div.

```
<form action="update.php"</pre>
method="post" class="general">
002
             <input type="hidden" name="email"
value="<?= $email; ?>" /> results element
003
                <input type="hidden"</pre>
name="assertion" value="<?= $_
POST['assertion']: ?>" />
004
                 <label for="name">Name</label>
             <input type="text" name="name"</pre>
005
value="" class="form-input" />
                <label for="console">Choose
Console</label>
007
                 <div class="select-wrapper">
008
           <select name="console" required>
009
              <option value="Xbox 360">Xbox
360</option>
010
             <option value="PS3">PS3</option>
              <option value="Wii">Wii</option>
011
012
              <option value="Nintendo</pre>
DS">Nintendo DS</ortion>
013
          </select>
014
         </div>
```

Update the database

Now we have our form in place, we need to create a PHP file that will update the contents of the database, and then push the user back to the login.php page and display the amended data. Create a new PHP file, add the following code and save this out as 'update. php'. You will need to add your own database details.

```
001 <?php
002 $con = mysql_connect("localhost", "username"
. "password"):
003 if (!$con)
004 {
005 die('Could not connect: ' . mysql_
error());
006
007
008 mysql_select_db("BrowserID", $con);
009
010 mysql_query("REPLACE INTO userdata
VALUES('".$_POST['email']."','".$_
POST['name']."','".$_POST['console']."')");
011 mvsql_close($con):
013 header('Location: login.php');
014 ?>
```

Persistent login

Something you may notice now is that we get thrown back to our index.html page; the reason for this is because we are not passing the correct variable back to the login.php page. Add the following code at the end of the update.php file, outside of the PHP brackets. This will send all the correct data back to the login.php in the form of a POST.

```
001 <form action='login.php' method='post'
name='form'>
002 <?php
003 foreach ($_POST as $a => $b) {
004 echo "<input type='hidden' name='".$a."'
value='".$b."'>";
005 }
006 ?>
007 </form>
008 <script language="JavaScript">
009 document.form.submit();
010 </script>
```

Display existing data

So now we are updating our data correctly, we need to display it on the login,php page. Add this set of code within your boxl div as an h1 tag. This code pulls the information from the database and presents it on your page. Again you will need to replace elements of this code with your own database details.

```
001 <?php
002
           $con = mysql_connect("localhost","us
ername", "password");
003
           if (!$con)
004
005
             die('Could not connect: ' . mysql_
error()):
006
007
008
           mysql_select_db("browserID", $con);
999
010
           $result = mysql_query("SELECT * FROM
userdata WHERE email='".$email."'"):
011
012
           while($row = mysql_fetch_
array($result))
013
             echo "<h1>Welcome ".$row['name'].
014
 your console of choice is " .$row['console'].
"</h1>":
015
016
017
           mysql_close($con);
018
```

Finish with an if statement

So now the page is pulling out data from the database and displaying it alongside our update form. The following code will ensure the user has completed the fields required; if not, it will display a prompt to do so. Add this code around step 17's while statement.

The next thing to do is to add a form to the login.php page that enables users to enter data into the new database

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Produce interactive animations with Edge

Produce interactive animations with Edge

As Adobe's new HTML animation tool evolves, we examine the latest features

tools | tech | trends Adobe Edge Preview expert Mark Shufflebottom





s Flash has now been scrapped as a plug-in for mobile devices, and as more clients demand solutions that cross platforms and differing screen sizes, the Adobe Edge team has been really ramping up the capabilities of what the

animation program can offer. Indeed, the latest version has added the option of interactivity via a scripting panel. There are scripts already built in, so it's easy to use as is, but just like with ActionScript, if you know how to code yourself, you can add a lot more functionality. This is done either with native JavaScript or by using jQuery as Edge harnesses this plug-in to power it.

Admittedly, there are still some issues with Edge at the moment. For example, it still doesn't add content as divs to the document and it doesn't offer options to publish to Canvas, but it is improving as a tool and will make a valuable addition to any designer's toolkit.





On the Edge

Visit http://labs.adobe.com/technologies/edge.and download the latest edition of Edge. You will need to uninstall previous versions before installing the new iteration. From the cover CD copy over the Start folder to the desktop and then launch the Adobe Edge software.





<Λbove>

 With mobile Flash sites on the way out, Adobe is keen to fill the big gap that the animation app will leave with Edge

Create a new document

Click on the 'Create new document' icon when Edge starts up. Change the stage dimensions to 960 x 300px, set the Overflow to Hidden and name the stage 'Slides'. Set the stage colour to black as well. Now save the project as 'Slides' in the Start folder.

Produce interactive animations with Edge

Import images

Go to the File menu and choose Import. Browse to the image folder located inside the Start folder. Now select the first image and Shift-click the last image to select them all before hitting the Open button. The four images will appear stacked on the stage and you can see the order in the Elements panel.





Organise the images

In the Elements panel sort the images from the lowest to the highest so that they are ordered 'edge', 'motion', 'graphic' and 'design'. Click on the word itself to drag and then let go of each between layers, otherwise it will jump back to its original position.



Start the animation

Turn off the visibility of all layers except edge in the Elements panel. With the edge layer selected you can now turn down the Opacity to 0% in the Layer properties. Next move the playhead to 0.5 seconds in and then bump up the Opacity to 100%. You should see the animation appear on the timeline.



Move the mark

Move the playhead to four seconds now and then separate the 'mark' (the little arrow that's located below the playhead) by repositioning it to 3.5 seconds on the timeline. Next you will need to change the Opacity to 0% and you will see the animation take effect from the mark position to the playhead position.



Copy and paste the animation

Click on the first block of animation and Shift-click the second block of animation, then press Cmd/Ctrl+C to copy. Switch on the visibility of the motion layer and select it. Now press Cmd/Ctrl+V to paste the animation; it should appear after the first. You can scale the timeline down to see both.

Flash-like interactivity

You will see as you start to add interactivity that the model here follows an AS1.0 approach of attaching code on different elements.

O1____Select a button

Launch a URL

To launch a new URL in the browser select a button on the stage and, in the Elements panel, click on the 'script' icon. Make Click the action and hit the Open URL button.



O2_____Change the URL

In the code that appears in that window just add the URL for the button that you wish to launch by replacing the default Adobe URL with your own.



O3____Pull the trigger
Alternatively you can do the same
command, but rather than a button use a
timeline trigger instead. Just select the
frame and go to Timeline-Insert Trigger.

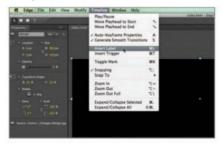
Repeat the animation

Turn on the visibility of the graphic layer and select it. Paste the animation in, then do the same for the last design layer. Your animation should now resemble the timeline shown in the screenshot below. You can preview it by pressing the 'play' icon or by hitting Cmd/Ctrl+Return to see it in the browser.



Set the labels

Place the playhead at frame O before going to the Timeline tab and selecting Insert Label. Name the label 'edge'. Repeat this simple process for 4, 8 and 12 seconds, naming the labels 'motion', 'graphic' and 'design', respectively, for each of the labels that correspond to each section.



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Produce interactive animations with Edge

Loop the timeline

Press Cmd/Ctrl+Return to preview in the browser and you will see that the timeline doesn't loop. Go back into Edge and move the playhead to the last frame. Select Timeline>Insert Trigger. In the popup click on 'Go to and play' then change the Time to 0.



Add a rectangle

Turn off the auto keyframing (the red stopwatch icon above the timeline). Next, click on the Rectangle tool and draw out a shape. In the Properties panel make it 280px wide by 300px high and position it at 680px on the X axis. Allocate black as the colour of the rectangle and set the Opacity to 50%.



Write the text

Next, use the Text tool to add two text areas.

Change font colour to white at 24px in size (for headers) and 18px for other text. Add writing as shown in the screenshot for each hit. In the Elements panel name the heading 'Edge' and the description text, which is the smaller qualifier beneath, 'description'.

Copy the text Copy these two text a

Copy these two text areas and paste them three times, positioning each on the right of the display as shown. Once in place change the text as per the final image. Then, in the Elements panel, rename the divs to 'Motion', 'Graphic' and 'Design' for the headings accordingly with the descriptions to be numbered 2-4.



Save and test

Now is a good time to save and test the animation so far. At present there is no functionality in the animation other than for it to play in a linear fashion. We are going to change that by adding interactivity. Select the Edge text and, in the Elements panel, click on the 'script' icon.

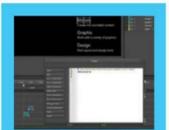


jQuery is king

As Edge uses jQuery as its code base you can add any command in from jQuery, such as those that change CSS properties, or even regular JavaScript.

Change the CSS Choose Mouseover as the

event and type in this code: \$(this. lookupSelector("Edge")).css('cursor', 'pointer');. This means that when the mouse is over this element the cursor changes to a pointer. Notice it only changes when over the Edge div.



Interactivity in Edge under the microscope

Without Flash on mobile devices, Adobe is left trying to find solutions for its customers for creating cross-platform interactive animation.

You may wonder why this is so important and the main reason is: banner ads. With this in mind it sort of explains the Edge team's decision not to include content for the stage in the document, because this means as adverts are stripped in and out of pages it is as simple as changing the supporting assets which would be much like changing a SWF.

As most banner ads are calls-toaction there usually needs to be some form of interactivity with the user to take them to another site. For this a simple link will suffice in the vast majority of cases, however in other instances more interactivity is required so the use of JavaScript and jQuery is added which can be run by the relevant browser.

Produce interactive animations with Edge

Control the click

Now press the 'plus' icon that's positioned in the top-left of the panel and choose Click. Select the 'Go to and play' button then change the Time to the edge label as demonstrated in the screengrab; this means it will send the playhead to this frame label that we added back in step 9 whenever we click on this div.



Repeat the code

Repeat steps 15 and 16 for the other headings.
Remember to change the divs to 'motion', 'graphic' and 'design' for the CSS. The labels should also point to 'motion', 'graphic' and 'design' for each 'Go to and play' command. You can now test all this in the browser.





Highlight time

Click on the word 'Edge' on the screen and activate the auto keyframing. Select 0.5 seconds on the timeline and change the colour to yellow. Move the mark to 3.5 seconds and the playhead to four seconds then change the text colour back to white to make it highlighted in this section.

Copy and paste animation

Select the first section of animation then
Shift-click the second and copy it. Click on each of the
titles in turn and paste the animation and they should
appear at the end of the current playhead position
which is exactly where we want them.



Save your work

Now is a good time to save your work as most of the interactivity and colour effects are in. Just hit the 'play' button on the timeline to ensure the coloured effect of the buttons is working; this should have the word turning yellow as the image changes.



Test in the browser

Hit Cmd/Ctrl+Return to test your work in the browser. As you can see the app is showing a lot of promise with work that could previously only be done in Flash now being offloaded to HTML. Now you can easily make custom animations with interactivity that are compatible across all modern devices.



Open a feature-rich eShop using WordPress

Online stores have never been easier thanks to WP and WooCommerce

tools | tech | trends WordPress, WooCommerce (plug-in), Wootique (theme), web browser expert James Koster





rade is one of our most ancient behaviours, with records of long-distance commerce dating back over 150,000 years. It's safe to say we've come a long way since our ancestors began bartering goods and services in a crowded marketolace.

Truly some of our most significant advances in commerce have taken place in the last decade or so. With the web becoming ever-more ubiquitous, we're able to do more and more of our business from the comfort of our own homes. You can order next week's groceries, pay your bills and purchase some presents in less time than it takes to even get to the physical shops.

Whatever you're aiming to sell online, this guide takes you through the steps necessary to open a slick store on the greatest marketplace known to man: the web. With WordPress as our base, we'll use the handy WooCommerce plug-in to streamline the process.



We're able to do more and more of our business from our own homes



1 Lay the groundwork

There's a huge number of things to think about when setting up an online store which, in fact, could be a tutorial on its own. But some key areas to consider are choosing an appropriate payment provider (such as Paypal, above); deciding on shipping terms/costs; getting to grips with tax; deciding if you want to track an inventory; and puttting security measures in place.

Prepare your content

The next important step in the preparation process is to organise your content. Write your terms, shipping and returns policies, gather your product descriptions and data, assign them SKUs, decide on your product categories/attribute sets, think about possible product tags and choose some appropriate dimensions for your raw product imagery.

Open a feature-rich eShop using WordPress



Social strategy

Social media has become a massively popular marketing tool for online stores. Think about which emailmarketing software might be suitable for your eShop and register an appropriate Twitter ID. With WooCommerce it's even possible to integrate with Facebook, the Google product feed and some message providers to deliver order updates via SMS.



Download and install WordPress

With the prep done it's now time to embark on WordPress's 'five-minute installation' process. Pay careful attention to assuring you set up your secure keys and salts as security is of paramount importance on an eCommerce website. Also consider allocating a little extra memory to PHP (http://tinyurl.com/phpmemory)_which will probably be a must if you're building a larger store.



Install WooCommerce

You can install WooCommerce from the WP admin panel or download it from the <u>WordPress.org</u> plug-in repository. It's a good idea to register at <u>www.woothemes.com/woocommerce</u> too; this gives you access to the documentation and snippet library, as well as subscribing you to the newsletter. Once you activate WooCommerce, pick the option to complete setup automatically for convenience.



Rick your plug-ins

Now would be a good time to install your favourite, must-have plug-ins and any extras that you may have decided are essential to your store. There is a wealth of premium WooCommerce extensions which bolt additional functionality on to the core plug-in that can be purchased here: www.

woothemes.com/extensions/ woocommerce-extensions



Install your theme

WooCommerce is designed to integrate with the default WP theme (Twenty Eleven) but, since version 1.4, it's easier to use with other themes too, including those which are purely focused on selling products. Wootique, included on this month's CD, is one example. Install it as normal (ie upload theme folder to /wp-content/themes), activate it and have a play.

Who is Woo?

WooThemes specialises in premium WP theme and plug-in design and development. Founded three years ago Woo is now known as one of the most successful WordPress startups.

Tailor your store



01 Background image

Using the theme options in Wootique you can make a host of changes. Upload a background photo or a tiled texture to better tie the store in with the products.



02 Navigation & shadow

You can easily adjust the strength of the drop shadow on the main content frame and play with the opacity of the navigation if necessary.



O3 Google fonts

You can even modify the typography in your eShop by securely loading web fonts from Google's extensive library. There are plenty of options to suit all kinds of store.

General content population

At this point in the proceedings it may be a good opportunity to take care of some of the more 'boring' content. Luckily if you spent adequate time on your earlier preparation then this stage shouldn't take long. Start laying the foundations of your store by adding key elements like terms, privacy policy, shipping policies, etc., as standard WordPress pages.



Og Configure WooCommerce

Now it's time to sink your teeth into the WooCommerce configuration. Good preparation is the key but it's well worth having a good read through the extensive documentation online. As you'd expect, the General tab contains store-wide options such as currency settings, countries you're willing to ship to, security options and some JS optimisation options.



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Open a feature-rich eShop using WordPress

Configure WooCommerce 2

In the Catalog tab you can define settings relating directly to your product archives. Choose whether to display subcategories, specify weight and dimension units, control currency/decimal positions and input dimensions for your product imagery.



Far from taxing...

The scale of your store and where you're shipping to will ultimately dictate your tax settings. WooCommerce has comprehensive tax options so you can set up multiple rates and even compound and state taxes. It also offers many shipping options including flat rates, local delivery/pickup and classes.

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Payment and emails

WooCommerce provides support for several payment options including cheque, bank transfer, cash on delivery and PayPal, which for most small stores is sufficient. To configure PayPal the only piece of information you need is your PayPal ID (email address). Finally you can make tweaks in the Emails tab to taste.

(Optional) dummy content

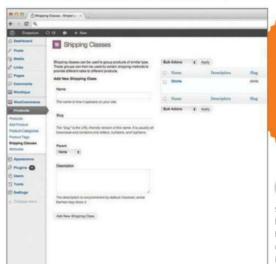
To get a feel for the product creation process you may wish to import the 'dummy_content.xml' file from the disc. This will populate your store with some ready-made products, attributes and categories (which can be deleted later), including variable and grouped products. You can also check out the frontend now.





Product categories

Categories can be nested and dragged and dropped into order. Don't confuse categories with attributes. Think of categories as main navigation anchors, while attributes narrow down products; eg in a videogame store categories might be Games, Consoles, etc., while attribute sets might be Genre, Platform, etc.

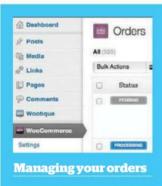


Mobile matters

Responsive design is a tutorial of its own, but with billions of pounds of online sales taking place on mobile devices it can't be overlooked. Explore the responsive themes at WooCommerce to start.

Ship shape

Shipping classes enable you to specify flat shipping rates which can then be applied to specific products. So if you have a group of large/heavy products, you can create a specific rate for those, define its availability and calculate the shipping cost per item, per order or per class.



It's important to be prepared for the impending flood of orders you'll no doubt receive post launch. Familiarise yourself with order statuses: Pending - order received; Failed - payment failed/declined; Processing - payment received; Completed - order fulfilled; On-hold - awaiting payment; Cancelled - cancelled by an admin; Refunded - refunded by an admin.

Note that from the order screen you can manually change order statuses, edit the order, reduce stock and send the customer an invoice, or handle any general communications regarding their order via email. This is also where you'll be able to check any notes the customer may have attached to their order.

Keep on top of your orders as customers can (and will) check on the status of their order via the tracking functionality of WooCommerce.

Open a feature-rich eShop using WordPress

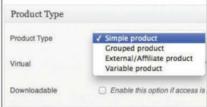
What are attributes?

Particularly in larger stores, attributes are an invaluable asset allowing your customers to drill down products to find exactly what they are looking for – quickly. Attribute sets such as size and colour are also essential for setting up variable products such as clothes. Have a close read of the attributes in the WooCommerce documentation.



Product types

We're nearly ready to begin adding products but, before we do, it's a good idea to familiarise yourself with the various product types. Simple products are self-explanatory and can be virtual (for a service) or downloadable (for a digital product). Grouped products are for grouping simple products - for example, a PlayStation 3 could be a grouped product containing 320GB and 160GB options. Variable products are those with many different options - for example, a T-shirt available in a range of sizes and colours.





Add your products

If you're comfortable with general WordPress usage then creating products should be very familiar. In fact it's very similar to authoring a post - there are just a few more fields to fill in! Remember to assign up-sells and cross-sells to your products to maximise potential profit per order and be sure to include descriptive content, which will be a great benefit to your store from an SEO perspective.

Widgets

Widgets are the final step in the store configuration. In WooCommerce there are many useful built-in widgets which you can place in the widgetised areas of the Wootique theme (Appearance) Widgets). The sidebar is perfect for displaying the cart and search widgets, while the footer regions are ideal for top-rated and bestselling product.

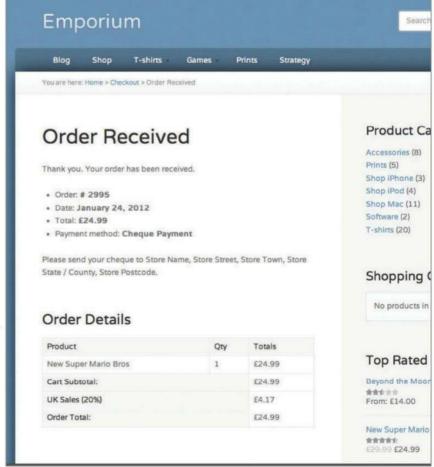


Testing times

It's absolutely crucial that the moment your store goes live, customers can place orders hassle free. A good tip is to set up a test product worth a penny and run through the entire order process, from finding a product, to adding it to the cart, to checking out and paying (then downloading if it's a downloadable commodity). Test in various browsers on different operating systems.

Open for business!

Sit back, relax and let the moolah roll in! Of course, becoming the next Amazon isn't going to happen over night. The backbone of any successful online business is top-notch customer service and doggedly maintaining your search positions and staying competitive on unit/shipping costs. But with WordPress and WooCommerce, never has it been so easy to embark on the exciting journey of building and running your very own eShop.



Migrate from SketchUp to WebGL

Conquer the enticing if baffling world of HTML5's native 3D web graphics with SketchUp, CopperCube and WebGL

tools | tech | trends Google SketchUp (free version), CopperCube (trial version), image editor expert Robin de Jongh





ast issue we created a simple 3D version of the HTML5 logo using Google's mind-bendingly simple but feature-rich 3D app, SketchUp. Now we're going to go a stage further and prepare it for the web by creating an animated scene, setting up lighting,

animating it and also applying some simple interactivity. Stuff like this has been possible for years – so why should we bother with it now? Well, the reason is that HTML5 is rewriting the rulebook and, in the near future, the 3D graphics library – WebGL – will be supported as standard. What this means for web designers is that browsers that support the standard, such as Firefox and Chrome, enable 3D objects to display natively (with no plug-ins such as Fiash needed). Essentially this means that 3D elements can become integral to the design of a webpage like never before and we can build on some fundamental principles to create richer experiences...





HTML5 is rewriting the rulebook and, in the near future, WebGL will be supported as standard



Check WebGL compatibility

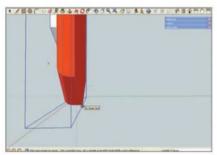
Go to www.ambiera.com/coppercube and select the Windows or Mac download button for CopperCube, then install the program. This is the 3D content authoring tool you will use to convert your COLLADA (DAE) file to WebGL-readable content. Now go to http://get.webgl.org.if you see a spinning cube then you have a WebGL-enabled browser.

Migrate from Google SketchUp to WebGL



Open the logo

If you haven't already, pick up a copy of Google SketchUp from http://sketchup.google.com/download. Open the SketchUp HTML5 logo file you created in last month's tutorial, or grab 'HTML5_logo_web.skp' from this issue's disc. In SketchUp, select the logo, go to View>Toolbars>Views and pick the Right view.



Move the model

Zoom in to the tip of the shield using the scroll wheel. Select the Move button and click on the tip, then push the shield along the green axis until the red axis is approximately in the middle of the model. Holding the Shift key will lock movement to the green axis.



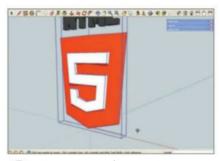
Create a colour texture

CopperCube doesn't import SketchUp colours, so we need to create some colour textures instead. In your image editor open the HTML5 logo from part 1, or 'HTML5_Logo_512,png' from the cover disc. Crop a 16 x 16px area of orange from the logo then go to File>Save As and name the file 'Orange.jpg'.



Rotate the model

Select the Rotate icon or alternatively press the 'R' key. Click on the blue axis just below the left side of the shield. Move the cursor to the right and you will see it follow a dotted green line. Click here, then move the cursor up and to the left, rotating the shield, and click again when the On Blue Axis message flags up.



The centre axis

Once more click the tip of the shield and move the cursor up so that you see the dotted blue axis.

Again hold Shift to lock to that axis then click on the origin. Your model should now sit with the lowest centre point at the origin, which is the crossing point of the red, green and blue axes.



Apply the texture

Back in SketchUp, click on the Paint Bucket tool to open the Materials palette. Hit the Home icon to show the materials in the model. Select the orange-coloured area (shield), then go to the Edit>Use Texture Image and browse to the Orange.jpg image you just created (or use the version provided on the CD).

Alternative Stage3D Flash content



O1_____Backwards compatible Those using IE or older versions of Firefox or Chrome won't be able to see WebGL content. In CopperCube go to Publishing Settings and select the Flash tab.



O2 Flash settings

Rename your HTML file or else it will be overwritten. Set width, height and frames per second. Click OK, then select Publish as Flash in the top toolbar.



03 Fallback script

Export as usual. In the HTML add the code below between the <canvas> elements. If the browser doesn't recognise the <canvas> element, it will call the fallback.

001<object width="480" height="480> 002 <embed src="HTML5_</pre> scene.swf" type="application/x-003 shockwave-flash" 004 allowscriptaccess="always" allowfullscreen="true" 006 width="480" 007 height="480" wmode="direct"> 008 </embed> <div align="center">Latest flash plugin required, or use Chrome or Firefox Browser.</div> 010</object> 011</canvas> 012

<tutorials>

Migrate from Google SketchUp to WebGL



Modify the texture

You only need to do this once, because you can modify the hue in SketchUp to create black and white textures. Go back to the Select tab and pick the white material ('5') then add the Orange.jpg texture to it as before. Now click in the middle of the Color Wheel and bump the neighbouring slider to the top (ie white).



Import SketchUp models

Select and open the 'HTML_text.dae' and 'HTML5_shield.dae' files. Hold the middle mouse button to pan the view until you can see both objects. Click on the Startup Skybox item in the SceneGraph Explorer list and delete it. Go to the Top Down View icon or hit F2; you can rotate the mouse to zoom in or out.

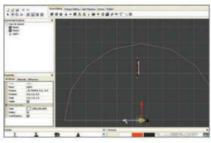
Waiting for JS libraries and 3D authoring tools

If you're a dab hand at JavaScript you may like to know that WebGL is accessed with JavaScript. In fact, if you really wanted to you could describe 3D objects in JS code, then manipulate, shade and animate them using just the WebGL commands. However, just as most designers now use a JS library such as jQuery to do all the hard work, so you should use a library for WebGL. Current frontrunners include Scene.js, Three.js and CopperLicht. Using a 3D authoring tool alongside SketchUp is a best option for most designers and CopperCube (which uses the CopperLicht JS library) is probably the easiest to start with...



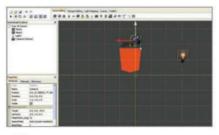
COLLADA export settings

Repeat step 8 for the black area ('HTML'), moving the slider just above the bottom. Hit the Spacebar for the Select tool then Ctrl/right-click>Explode. Now select just the 'HTML' text and go to File>Export>3D Model. Make COLLADA the export type and enable the Export only selection and Export texture maps options.



Lighten up

In the Scene Editing tab, select Create a Point Light. Click on the red arrow and move the light down so that the ring around it covers the shield; this ring signifies the range of the illumination. Use the blue arrow to push it just to the right of the side of the shield with the '5' element protruding.

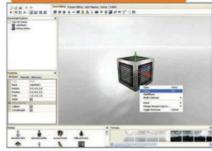


Get the camera rolling

Click on the Create a Camera icon and select a Model Viewer Camera. Use the green arrow to move it just above the 'HTML' object. Switch to the Perspective view. Click on the little box at the end of the camera's sight line then use the green and blue arrows to move this into the middle of the shield.

Embrace the 3D origin

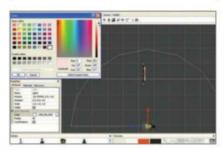
With 3D models, always place the origin at the lowest centre point, if possible. This makes it much easier to place, rotate and animate on the X, Y and Z axes.



Welcome to CopperCube

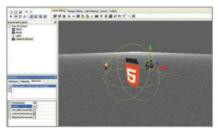
Name the file 'HTML_text.dae' and hit Export.

Now select all of the shield and export this as
'HTML5_shield.dae'. Save and close SketchUp. Launch
CopperCube and choose the Free 3D Scene option that
appears on startup. Select and delete the metal box
displayed in the main window and then go to File>
Import>Static 3D Mesh from file.



Tweak light properties

Next, in the Properties palette, select Color and click on the button with the three dots. Select a red shade in the main panel, then move the slider right up in order to get a very faint pinkish-white; click OK. Now go to the Front view and reposition the light to just above the centre of the shield.



Find a focal point

Switch to Front and then Left views to make sure the box is in the centre of the shield; move if necessary. Back in the Perspective view select the camera, go to the Behavior tab and pick Model Viewer Camera Style Controlled. Change the Radius to 20 and uncheck Vertical Movement Allowed. Save the scene.

Migrate from Google SketchUp to WebGL



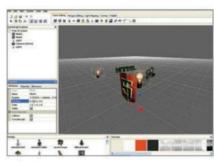
View in browser

Go to Tools>Test as WebGL and use your mouse to orbit the model in your browser. Make adjustments to the camera target if you need to and test again. Back in CopperCube, select the 'HTML' text and go to the Materials tab. Select Dynamic in the Lighting dropdown. Repeat this process for the shield then test again.



Update the lighting

Add another light and position it near the opposite side of the shield. This time the effect of the light is updated in real-time. Move it up so that it illuminates the 'HTML' text as well as the shield. Next select the 'HTML' object, go to the Behavior tab and click on Add a new behavior; from here choose Rotate.



Control rotation speed

Change the text to these values: 0.0, 0.2, 0.0.

Now go to the Attributes tab and set rotation back to all zeroes. Repeat this for the shield, and this time get it rotating in the opposite direction by entering: 0.0, -0.2, 0.0. At the top of the Explorer palette, pick the Free3D Scenel and, under Properties, select the Attributes tab.



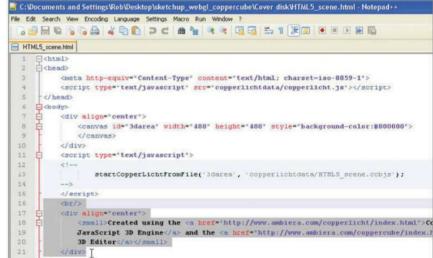
A different viewpoint

Select Background Color and change it to white as you did earlier. Activate the camera object and use the blue, red and green arrows to move it to get the best start view. The camera will be constrained at a fixed distance from the centre of the model, so you can safely move and test this without losing the focus.



WebGL export

Go to Publish>Publishing Settings and, in the General tab, enter 'HTML5_Logo'. Next, in the WebGL tab, enter width and height values of 480, and set the fps to 24. Select Publish as WebGL (.html) from the dropdown before clicking OK. Your WebGL page is created in the same folder as your CopperCube scene.



Finalise the HTML

Hyper Text Markup Language file

</body>

Open the HTML file in your HTML editor. Remove the text between the last <script> and the </body> tag. Paste this code into any webpage to display the spinning logo where you like. Just place the 'copperlichtdata' folder into the same web folder. You have now mastered 3D WebGL logos!

length: 710 lines: 23

of three
Try adding a few more
lights. A three-light setup
is optimum to give a
feeling of depth to your

The rule

scene. Usually two up front and a smaller back light work well.

web workshop

Building headers with colourful animated text

inspiration www.roggeundpott.de



hen creating websites with dark backgrounds, colourful stylistic content really stands out - whether it's This has been done in Flash and uses the photos, type or graphics. This is the technique used in real portfolios taken by hand to clients for years, so it's no

surprise that this should also be the choice for many when transferring their work online. This is certainly the case for Rogge & Pott Design, whose site uses a dark-grev

background to show offits previous projects Where this style really excels is the animated text header which pops up across the site. Add blending mode to create areas of brightness where the words overlap. The text animates in and out on different pages, depending on the navigation that is selected.

Inspiration **Using contrast** to best effect

Contrast is a key weapon in any designer's arsenal and we should always consider this when working on a UI. Remember the interface for a website isn't just the navigation, header and branding, but every part of the page that communicates - that can be illustration, text, video, sound and animation. High contrast is always the best way to communicate and is especially good from an accessibility point of view, but beyond that it makes your message clearer as everything leaps out the screen. Classic examples of high contrast would be light text on a dark background or vice versa.

A Flash alternative

code and the canvas set to globalCompositeOperation = "lighter"



the design with a unique bright colour to give it high contrast to the background. the Add blend mode simulates coloured light overlapping so tones eventually become white.

webpage the animation uses an easing effect so that the content slows smoothly before stopping colours of the titles. This colour-codes the projects with the areas they represent.

animate out of the screen except for the relevant project area(s).

Building headers with colourful animated text



A view from the inside of

Sixties-inspired styling

"We wanted something that plays on the interaction and combination of the different design disciplines that we offer at the agency. Inspired by the classy but bold Helvetica/CMYK/overlay/graphics combination used back in the Sixties, we went for the animated heads using the same colour-coding we adopted for the rest of the site – even if this meant using Flash."

Henning Rogge, creative director, Rogge & Pott

Technique Animate your header titles



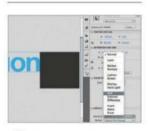
One Plash and use the Text tool to create a large title for your site in a bright blue colour. Change the background colour of the document to dark grey so that it stands out.



Convert to a clip
Select the text on the screen
and, from the Modify menu, choose
Convert to Symbol, give it a name,
make it a movie clip and choose
top-left on the Registration box.



Position off stage
For the time being, move the text off the stage to either the left or right as we will be making the different titles animate onto the page from a variety of places/directions.



Try new blends
With the title selected, look
inside the Properties panel and find
the Blend Mode dropdown. Change
this from Normal to Add in order to
get the additive colour effect.



Add frames
Select frame 90 on the
timeline and hit F5 to add a frame,
then Ctrl/right-click the timeline and
add a motion tween. Next move the
text so it's aligned to the left.



Easing into it
In the Motion Editor panel,
scroll to the bottom of the window
and then, under the Ease section,
bump up the Simple (Slow)
parameter from 0 to 100.



Apply to the X axis
Scroll to the X property in the
Motion Editor and change the Ease
drop menu from No Ease to Simple
(Slow) to apply the easing to this title.



Repeat the process
Add more words and convert
them to movie clips, then animate
them arriving on the screen from
various locations at different speeds.



Publish the file
Hit Cmd/Ctrl+Return to test
the animation; this also publishes a
SWF version of the file in the folder
that the project is saved to.



Technique

Blending modes explained

Blending modes can be a little tricky to understand although they are widely available in many creative programs that help us as designers. Here we reveal a bit of the science behind how they work.



Additive blending
Additive blending occurs when pixels
that overlap have their values added to the
colour of the pixels beneath. If enough
colours overlap, the result will take the value
up to white; this is the way light behaves too.



Subtractive blending
Subtractive blending is what happens
when you mix inks or paint together: more
and more colours will end up as black. The
Subtract blend mode would be an example
of this but Darken and Multiply are similar.



Overlay blending
This mode is a mix of the two. Light
parts become lighter while dark parts
become darker using an S-curve. This mode
offers some really interesting results –
particularly with overlapping images.

web workshop 71

web workshop

Apply a modern take on retro styles

inspiration www.thisistommy.com



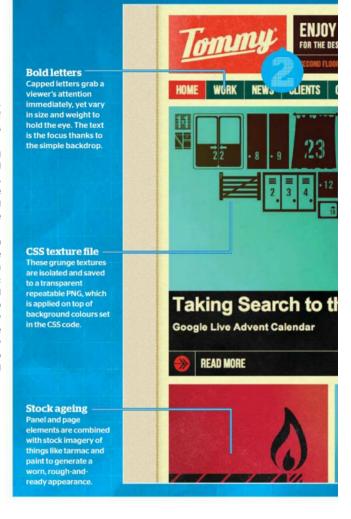
o-fi styles are looking to cut and paste past styles into the present. Web designers are using these pre-digital effects to paradoxically revolutionise todav's more synthetic styles. This isn't so much a

battle of retro versus modern as it is an analogue look versus a digital one.

Unlike mixed-media styles, although applying grunge elements, the lo-fi approach is totally tailored and intentional down to every last detail. Will Tunstall, creative partner at Tommy (www.thisistommy.com), explains: "Firstly the use of colour becomes vital. We spent a long time looking at those applied in our own site, especially on the Work page. We knew it had to be colourful but for the design to carry off the vintage feel, the colours have to be desaturated and muted by the right amount to stop them feeling digital. Also to become a convincing part of the page, I also applied subtle gradients to suggest some sunlight fading."

Textures also play a role in creating that sense of weathering, combined with digital assets (eg photos of tarmac, concrete and paint). Tunstall uses one transparent repeatable PNG, applied on top of background colours in the CSS, to save on file size.

The choice of type can also make a great visual impact, creating a more coherent look. Tunstall comments on the fonts used on the Tommy website: "We've picked League Gothic and Alternate Gothic; [they manage] to convey a sense of humour in a very rigid, structured way. Using a single typeface can become quickly monotonous, however, so the two fonts complement each other, and keen the text varied and fresh."





What makes

The appeal of the past

"I think people always enjoy a sense of nostalgia - there's a safety and comfort in it. It feels less big business and corporate, and more homegrown. From a brand perspective it's also possibly a reaction to the user now being the main content generator, wanting to fit into that with a softer approach."

Will Tunstall, creative partner, www.thisistommy.com

Technique

Age with textures and gradients

Creating that perfect lo-fi layout would be impossible without subtle textures and the right tonal ranges. Textures in particular create distressed/aged effects, while paled gradients can replicate colours seen only in older photos or those exposed to light. Applying these in the right way to your panels and icons can produce exciting results. The choice of fonts is also key: think Alternate Gothic. Impact, Menlo, Arial, BlairMdITC TT, etc.



Shape up

Choose a simple panel or logo shape, eg a circle or rectangle. Apply a pale colour, setting your foreground and background tones to a lighter and darker variation; we've used #c42036.



Apply gradients

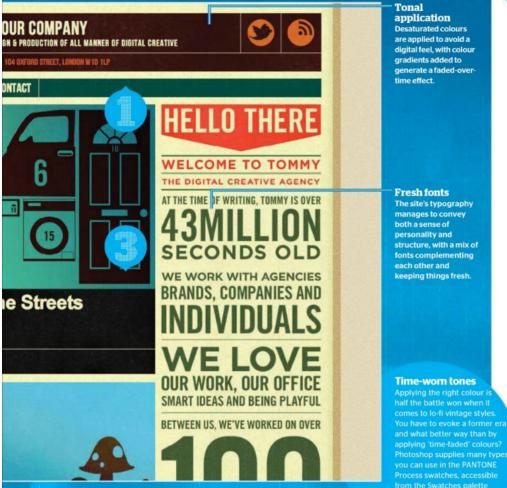
Now select Gradient Overlay from the Layer Styles options. Set the Angle to -30. Click and drag your gradient to isolate highlights to your shape's top-left corner. Next, import a grungy texture.





Set the texture layer blend mode to Overlay (Opacity 60%) and add a layer mask to the texture. Select both lavers. Ctrl/right-click and hit Smart Object. You can now copy this to make more panels.

Apply a modern take on retro styles



Technique

From new to old

Use Photoshop adjustment filters, blending options and brush tools to create layered lo-fi filters to turn any modern image vintage.



Brightness and colour

Duplicate your photo and set the blend mode to Color Dodge at 40-60%. Apply a Sepia Photo Filter adjustment layer at 70% Density. Then add a Brightness/Contrast adjustment layer, with Saturation set to 20.



Curve control

Apply a Hue/Saturation adjustment layer with Saturation at 20. Add a Curves adjustment layer and load our 'Lo-fi Curves preset' file from the disc. Check through the R, G and B channels (via the RGB drop option) to get a feel for their arrangement.

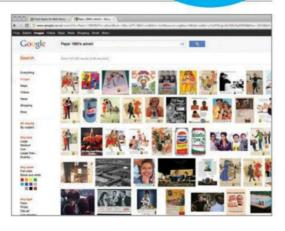


Add some flare

Get the discoloured Polaroid effect by creating a new layer and applying large 0% Hardness red/orange brushes around your image. Set the blend mode to Color Dodge (40% Opacity). Finally, merge all layers and apply a low-level Noise filter.

InspirationBygone brands

Will Tunstall explains where the inspiration for the site came from: "Ideas came from a lot of places, but mostly aesthetic print campaigns that were around in the Fifties and Sixtles. Core examples were major American brands such as Pepsi and Chrysler. We were also inspired by Geigy Pharmaceuticals packaging from the Seventies. All of these brands promote bold colours, shapes and typography. There's even some influence from toy and food packaging from as far back as the early 1900s in there!"



web workshop 73

web workshop

Create stylish content on a single page

inspiration www.ascensionlatorre.com



he Ascensión Latorre website uses a selection of blocks of on one another, essentially displays everything on offer. Access to content is

via a standard navigation system set in a fixed header bar. To give the vertical scrolling a sense of smooth movement a variety of code is utilised.

The key to this site is the fixed header and the individual sections which contain the content. Here we are going to create a basic template that will integrate a fixed header and three content sections which can be populated as desired. Each section is essentially two parts: the containing block and the content block.

The first element we consider is the fixed header (Technique 2). This interacts with the first block, meaning that the first section will need a margin at the top that matches the height of the fixed header to ensure that all content is visible. This also means that the first section will have an ID rather. than a class. If a class is used and applied to all sections, each section will have an unwanted margin at the top. To compensate, a new div is going to be used for each section; this offers more flexibility, allowing each area of the page to be customised to suit.

The first element after the header is the containing block. This will have a width of 100% and a fixed height. content which are stacked although this is optional. Inside the containing block is another section creating a single page that where the content will be placed. The width is flexible, but the height needs to be the same as the containing block. The last thing to do is to create further sections - as many as you need - using the same simple process.

001 <div id="section01">

002 <div id="section01inner">

003 004 </div><!-- //#section01inner 005 </div><!-- //#section01 --> 001 #section01 { 002 background: #FFF url(images/ image.jpg) repeat-x; 003 height: 500px; 004 width: 100%; 005 margin-top: 35px; 006 float: left: 007 padding: 0px 10px; 008 border-bottom: 5px solid 010 #section01inner { 011 height: 500px;

012 width: 1000px;

013 margin: 0px auto;}

Background texture A plain texture sits behind all the sections to create a backdrop have a background element, such as a colour or an image Vertical scrolling The Latorre site is effectively a single page allowing users to scroll down and across to view content. A simple scrolling effect is applied to each link to gently ease visitors into each section. Image gallery The Philosophy image slider which scrolls horizontally to reveal more images. Individual COLLECTION shots can be viewed



TECHNIQUE

Inspiration Avant-garde style

The images found across this furniture maker's site perfectly reflect their signature style - sophisticated and contemporary. Latorre themselves describe their style as classic avant-garde. The whole site makes use of a dark colour palette interspersed with gold and grevs all expertly matched by subtle leather textures and shadows. To complement the colour scheme a classic serif font (Museo Slab) is used for titles and these have contrasting colours and differing weights for emphasis. The body text again uses a classic serif font to round off a super-sophisticated website for this Spanish brand.



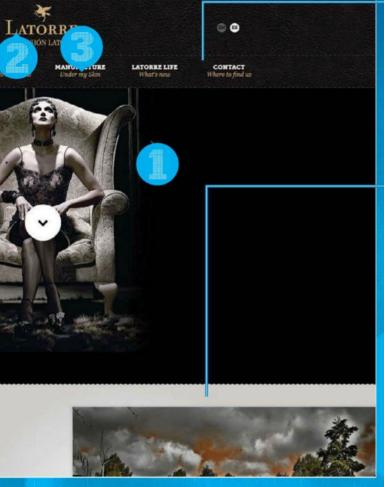
Holding tag

To make sure the fixed header works in tandem with the rest of the content the first step is to create a div tag. Name it as you wish or use the <header> tag if appropriate. Set the width to 100%, position to fixed, then add a background texture and a bottom border to better separate the content on the page for a clean look.

```
001 header {
002 height: 30px;
003 width: 100%;
004 background: #111 url(images/leather.jpg);
005 position: fixed:
006 border-bottom: 1px dashed #555;
```

74 web workshop

Create stylish content on a single page



Navigation
The navigation menu is situated inside a fixed header so access to the page sections is always readily available. As the page scrolls down the company name subtly fades out to leave just the logo.

HTML5 tags
Each of the different
sections is created
using HTML5 tags.
Individual elements
use the <section>
tag; this is defined as
'a generic section of
a document' by the
WHATWG
community (www.
whatwg.org).

Scrolling in style with Ascensión Latorre

Each of the sections on the Latorre site is individually styled with the Philosophy section using a parallax background technique. The background uses three layers of transparent images placed on top of one another to create a 3D effect. Careful positioning of the images enhances the effect as the page slides up and down.

Build a fixed header

02 Inner header

The menu for the header is set inside the holding tag we created in the previous step. Simply add the following code directly after the opening <header> tag: <div id="innerhead"></div> - and make sure that you remember to comment the closing tag - le <!--// #innerhead -->. Now set the width to the same as the main section - eg 1,000px - minus any padding, and both the left and right margins to auto.

001 #innerheader {
002 width: 980px;
003 padding: 0px 10px;
004 margin: 0px auto;
005 }

The first section

005 }

Next up we need to populate the #innerhead tag with the appropriate links. The most obvious option is to use
 tags (see Technique 3 for more on these). Once complete the first section that appears directly under the header needs to be styled. Note the height of the header – including any padding – and apply this measurement as a top margin.

001 background: #FFF url(images/image.jpg)
repeat-x;
002 height: 510px;
003 width: 100%;
004 margin-top: 35px;

TECHNIQUE

Getting to grips with list tags

List tags, or <i>>s, are a quick and easy way to create a series of headers on a website's main navigation menu or submenus. Here we take a look at what makes <i>s tick.

01 Unordered lists

A popular method for creating a set of navigation links is the use of the

 the subset of navigation links is the use of the
 the subset of the

001
 002 1i×/li>
 003 1i×/li>
 004 1i×/li>
 005 1i×/li>
 006

Remove bullet points

By default, a list adds bullet points; to remove these and take greater control of the list styling set the list style type to none. Now change the margins and padding to 0 for both the
 and tags. To modify the orientation of the menu just set the float element of the to left

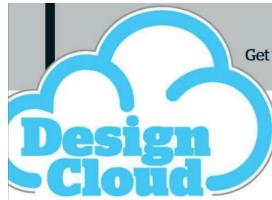
001 li {
002 margin: 0px;
003 padding: 0px
004 list-style-type: none;
005 float: left;}

Final touches

Populate the <I> tags and add any more if needed. Add a hash tag (#) - ie <Ii> a href="#">LINK ONE /Ii>; this will activate the link but without redirecting to a destination, which makes it ideal for testing. To increase space, add the necessary padding to suit the design. Finally, include a background image to create a pointer for each item on the list.

001 li {
002 margin: 0px;
003 padding: 0px 5px 0px 17px;
004 list-style-type: none;
005 float: left;
006 background: url(images/list.jpg)
no-repeat 0px 2px;}

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Get your site seen, or suggest a theme Tweet us with the URL or topic * @WebDesignerMag

Go mobile

The small screen is more popular than ever. Here we bring together some of the best examples of mobile site design currently gracing the web







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- 2.www.diesel.com 3. http://m.hersheys.com.
- 4. http://sundayhestdesigns.com
- 5. www.warface.co.uk
- 6. www.cappuccinodigital.com.br. 12. http://lynnandtonic.com
- 7. http://tinyurl.com/stonevets. 8. http://m.mlk3.net 9. http://m.creativecarlos.com.
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Right-hand page

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- 14. www.hk.com 15. http://mobile.visitlubbock.org
- 16. www.smokeyhones.com.
- 17. http://m.panerabread.com
- 18. www.hm.com.
- 19. http://m.viventy.de.
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Optimising your code

PUSHFOR PEAK PERFORMANCE

With today's ever-more powerful hardware and superfast networks, it can be easy to grow complacent when it comes to keeping your code light. Envato evangelist Jeffrey Way is here to persuade us it's more important than ever and offer a few expert tips along the way...

elieve it or not, the concept of optimising front-end code for maximum performance is a relatively new thing. Sure, years and years ago, we knew that it was important, but we simply didn't have access to the tools that we do today. Even six years ago, we were far more concerned with wrangling our websites into functioning correctly in Internet

Explorer 6 than with squeezing every ounce of performance out of our applications.

Luckily, these days, as Chrome and Firefox continue to fight for the highest version number, we're in a golden age of web development. Thanks to CSS3 and HTML5, designers are able to drastically reduce the 'weight' of their designs. Background images have been replaced with CSS3 gradients, while @font-face,

much to every designer's delight, has taken the place of sIFR (Flash-based fonts). Even the usage of the various new HTML5 elements helps to provide a tiny performance boost when querying the DOM.

Though a saving of a few hundred milliseconds might not sound a lot, rest assured, it can make all the difference. Besides, this is your craft; if you won't consider these sorts of things, who will?

80______ feature



Ask yourself this: when was the last time that I read a webpage from top to bottom? It's very possible that your answer will be: never. We exist in an environment where immediate gratification is essential. Even an additional second can serve as the difference between making a purchase and/or moving on to the next source of input.

In 2006, Google found that a half-second increase in page load speeds managed to reduce its traffic by as much as 20 per cent. An isolated incident, you say? Not likely: Amazon came to the same conclusion when it learned that, as page load speeds increased in 100ms intervals, revenue reduced substantially.

Still not convinced? Well, it's been calculated that 49 per cent of users will abandon a website or switch to a competitor after experiencing performance issues; if that doesn't ring alarm bells, nothing will!

Common pitfalls

Unfortunately, much of the performance optimisation advice in the blogosphere revolves around techniques that, in all honesty, have negligible effects on performance. Here are a few of the main ones:

1. Single vs double

The majority of PHP developers will likely be familiar with the single vs double debate. For those unfamiliar, the basic argument goes that, for performance reasons, it's better to wrap your strings in single quotes, rather than double quotes. The justification is that, because PHP won't need to detect whether variables are contained within the string, performance will improve as a result.

Not only is this not true, but it takes the concept of pre-optimisation to an extreme. If designers would instead focus their energy on the file size of their images, they would experience dramatic improvements in performance. Tools like <u>Smush.it</u> (<u>www.smushit.com</u>) make this process a cinch.



With Yahoo!'s <u>Smush.it</u>, you can automatically apply lossless compression to images

<u>Smush.it</u> will filter through a supplied set of images, provide lossless compression and return a ZIP file containing the collection of optimised images.

2. jQuery selectors

jQuery fans have undoubtedly read countless articles which recommend various ways to optimise the selectors that are passed to jQuery. Again, though, the truth is that as long as you are not obnoxious with your selectors, and pay attention to the fact that its

selector engine - Sizzle - parses selector strings from right to left, jQuery does a fantastic job of optimising the code as much as possible.

In most cases, whether you're using children() or find() to hunt down a particular element won't even begin to have a perceivable effect. This is not where your time is best invested. Certainly pay attention to performance, but focus on the right things.

3. CSS selectors

At one point or another, most of us believed the CSS universal * selector was terrible and should never be used. The truth is, when referenced by itself, this selector is no different to referencing any other element. The performance hits begin when it's used as a descendent selector, such as: .content > *. Because CSS is parsed in a right-to-left format, it first must obtain every element from the DOM and then determine whether each is a child of the element with a class of content. In these situations, you should never use the universal selector.

However, should you need to perform an action similar to zeroing out the margin and padding for all elements, feel free to use it as follows:

```
001 * { margin: 0; padding: 0; }
```

Or perhaps you want to regain some sanity by returning to the days of yore and IE's old box model:

```
001 /* Rapidly gaining in popularity this year
*/
002 * {
003     -webkit-box-sizing: border-box;
004     -moz-box-sizing: border-box;
005     box-sizing: border-box;
006 }
```

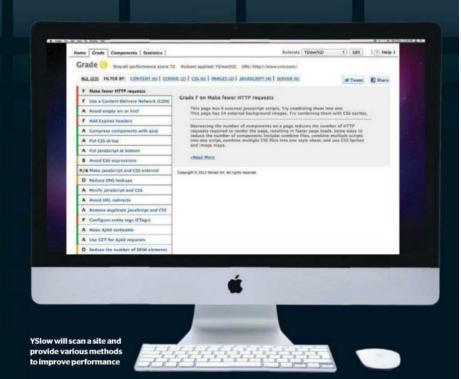
As long as you're working with a relatively maintainable website, there is little to worry about. Remember, there are far, far bigger things to be concerned about before focusing your attention on CSS selector performance.

Core contributor to WebKit, Antti Koivisto, couldn't have put it any better, when he said: "My view is that authors should not need to worry about optimising selectors (and from what I see, they generally don't). That should be the job of the engine."

Best practices

A startling statistic worth pointing out at this point is that 80 per cent of page loads are spent on the frontend - or in other words, the images, stylesheets and scripts that make our sites look pretty.

Despite the ubiquitous bad advice that seeps out from the internet, companies like Yahoo! and Google have gone to great lengths to recommend a set of tried-and-true best practices, which should be integrated into all projects.



feature 81

For those wary of toying with the command line, there are friendlier apps like LiveReload, CodeKit and SimpLESS

YSlow

Yahoo!'s YSlow is a browser extension which analyses your website and automatically detects hotspots, or areas where performance can be honed. It accomplishes this by conducting a range of tests and grading each A-F. Your score for each test will ultimately be averaged into one final grade.

Among other things, these tests will ensure that stylesheets and scripts are placed at the top and bottom of the document, respectively. Doing so manages to achieve the illusion of a faster page load. You'll find that particularly in older browsers, scripts are not downloaded in parallel. This translates to the rest of the page not being parsed until the script has fully downloaded.

Perhaps most importantly, though, YSlow determines whether all assets - that is, the scripts and stylesheets - have been concatenated and compressed. Concatenation refers to the process of taking, for example, three HTTP requests, or stylesheet links, and then combining them into one larger file. This achieves a reduction of two HTTP requests, which may on the face of it appear to be insignificant - however it's anything but.

In addition to concatenation, file compression - or gzipping - can reduce a file's size by as much as 40-70 per cent. While various online compression tools are available, such as CSS Drive, it's far more efficient to assign the task of combining and compressing assets to your build tool of choice. Otherwise, you'll likely waste hours over the course of a project's life cycle repeating this tedious process.

Automation

HTML5 Boilerplate recently exported its Ant build script to a separate project, hosted on GitHub. This script, among other things, will dynamically combine and compress assets, while 'automagically' updating the link and script references in your documents.

Ben Alman created a command line tool, called Grunt, which is tailor made for JavaScript applications. Through the use of a grunt.js configuration file, the process of concatenation, compression and validation (JSHint) can be instantly executed each time that a project is saved.

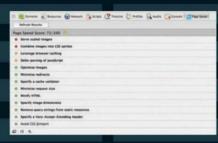
CSS preprocessors, like Sass, Less and Stylus, in addition to expanding the functionality of CSS, offer the ability to use multiple stylesheets during development - for organisational purposes - while ultimately exporting a single compressed stylesheet. For those who are wary of toying with the command line, there are a handful of friendlier apps available, including LiveReload, CodeKit and SimpLESS.

In addition to Yahoo!'s YSlow, Google offers its own performance tool called Page Speed. While this provides much of the same functionality, there are



Stylus, CoffeeScript and Haml files

some differences. As a rule of thumb, it's important to test and optimise websites with both extensions.



Similar to YSlow, Google Page Speed provides its own set of checks and balances for a website

Script loaders

Resource loaders - such as yepnope, s - are an essential tool in every web designer's toolbelt these days. Because many of the newest HTML5 JavaScript APIs don't yet have widespread support, we use polyfills to 'fill in the gaps'. Coined by Remy Sharp, founder of JS conference Full Frontal, a polyfill is a bit of code that fills in missing functionality gaps for older browsers - sort of like regressive enhancement.

For instance, while we can freely make use of native geolocation support in most modern browsers these days, the same certainly can't be said for older browsers like Internet Explorer 8. In these cases, a polyfill can be used to mimic the Geolocation API

However, there is a file-size cost to these polyfills. Doesn't it seem silly to import various polyfill scripts into an application when it's quite likely that the visitor is browsing in a modern browser, which has no use for the polyfill? Of course it is.

Luckily, resource loaders enable us to conditionally load assets, based upon a specified condition: 'If the browser does not provide native Geolocation support (navigator.geolocation), then only on that condition should it load the geolocation polyfill script.'

While yepnope.js is a standalone script, it is also integrated into the popular Modernizr library, a tool that detects support for HTML5 and CSS3 features. To make use of it - referred to as Modernizr.load - a



Modernizr is a hugely popular JavaScript library that performs CSS3 and HTML5 feature detection

82___

custom build of Modernizr needs to be generated. At this point, conditionally loading assets is essentially a walk in the park.

```
001 Modernizr.load({
002 test: Modernizr.geolocation,
003 nope: 'geolocationPolyfill.js'
004 });
```

This code instructs Modernizr to only load the geolocationPolyfill.js script on the condition that the browser does not provide native geolocation support. This way, visitors to your website don't have to 'pay' for the things they'll never make use of.

Minimising CSS3 weight

All web designers should be thankful that the browser vendors experimented with the new CSS3 properties as early as they did. That said, we're now at a point when a single property can require as many as five separate versions to achieve cross-browser compatibility which isn't ideal. As an example, for CSS3 transitions, WebKit, Mozilla, Microsoft and Opera prefixes should be represented.

The obvious downside to this is the fact that, particularly for larger, CSS3-heavy designs, the stylesheet's file size will increase significantly.



Achieve cross-browser CSS3 in seconds with Prefixr

Though tools like Nettuts+ Prefixr make the process of writing cross-browser CSS3 as easy as the click of a button, alternative JavaScript-based solutions, like-prefix-free, take a different approach: create your designs using the official syntax and, when the page loads in the browser, -prefix-free will detect the current browser and dynamically apply the necessary vendor prefixes to the properties.

Though one hurdle to -prefix-free is that it's a JavaScript-based solution, a considerable advantage is that the stylesheet's file size can be significantly reduced - not to mention the fact that you can finally break free from prefix hell!



With -prefix-free, you have the luxury of using the official syntax for the new CSS3 properties

Waterfalls

Monitoring the load cycle of a page is decidedly easier these days, thanks to tools like Firebug and Chrome Developer Tools. Often referred to as 'the waterfall' - and available via the Network tab in Chrome Dev Tools - the timeline provides vital information on the number of milliseconds required to load each asset. This can be used to detect and correct any major trouble-spots.

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The timeline or 'waterfall' is available via the Network tab in the Chrome Developer Tools

Take it to the next level

The subject of performance optimisation requires an entire book to detail effectively. This feature has only scratched the surface, in an attempt to whet your appetite. If you'd like to learn more, Steve Souders' (creator of YSlow) book, *Even Faster Web Sites*, is a vital resource. Be sure to also check out our box out on the right for more associated book and app suggestions for developers. On the other hand, should you desire the easy way out, HTML5 Boilerplate (html5boilerplate.com) is a fantastic starting point that can boast a plethora of best practices with many of YSlow's performance recommendations baked into the template.

HANDY RESOURCES

Recommended books and apps to complement the developer themes featured this month

HIGH PERFORMANCE JAVASCRIPT

£27/\$35

http://oreilly.com

This title by Nicholas Zakas promises to help you 'build faster web application interfaces' by revealing techniques for avoiding performance bottlenecks. Methods for optimising the way code is loaded into pages and practical tips for streamlining listings at source are included.



COFFEESCRIPT: ACCELERATED JAVASCRIPT DEVELOPMENT

£22.50/\$29

http://pragprog.com

CoffeeScript is all about making JavaScript leaner, with this book promoting the benefits via example-driven exercises. Author Trevor Bumham talks you through the building of a multiplayer game that leverages both jQuery and Nodejs to develop for both client and serve using standards-compliant code.



GUSTO - CODE EDITOR & FTP CLIENT £6.99/\$9.99

http://horseandtherook.com/gusto

Available for iPad via the iTunes App Store, this superb utility gives you the ability to edit and refine your web coding projects on the move. Designed to help streamline your workflow, it offers an attractive development environment with syntax highlighting for over 20 languages including ASP, ColdFusion, CSS HTML, JavaScript, PHP and Ruby.



Develop a secure login with RoR

We continue our short series on RoR with a look at applying authentication and user management to your formative Ruby applications (part 2)

tools | tech | trends Code editor, command line, Ruby on Rails 3.2 expert Matt Gifford



uby on Rails as a development framework provides web developers with the ability to easily generate powerful dynamic applications using relational mapping and the model view controller (MVC) patterns.

Last month we created a simple blogging application from the ground up generating the required scaffolds

and controllers to manage blog post listings including admin functionality to edit and destroy entries. All of this was handled with minimal coding and made use of Rails' built-in helpers and generation scripts to create the underlying architecture for each component.

In this tutorial we will extend our blog application and add log-in authentication controllers to manage access to restricted pages. We'll see how to reconfigure routes to handle the authentication process and simplify URL endpoints for users. We'll also create a global layout for the application and have a look at creating a stylesheet powered by SASS for dynamic CSS generation.

Adding gems

For our authentication system we want to encrypt, or hash, any supplied passwords. Open Gemfile in a text editor and add gem 'bcrypt-ruby' to the bottom. Once saved, open your Terminal window to install the bundle and make sure it has been included. You can then launch the Rails server

- 001 > bundle install
- 002 > bundle show bcrypt-ruby
- 003 > rails server

User scaffold

We need to create a new scaffold for user data. We'll store the name and a hashed password in the database instead of a plain string. Once the scaffold is done we migrate the changes to the database. Manage this with the built-in rake helper and run these commands in the Terminal window.

001 > rails generate scaffold User name:string password_ digest:string

002 > rake db:migrate

User model

Let's add the definitions to our user model now. Open app>models> users.rb and enter the validation rules within the class. We need to ensure that a name has been supplied and is unique. Rails will manage our secure password for encryption and password confirmation boxes on the frontend.

- 001 class User < ActiveRecord::Base
- 002 validates :name, presence: true, uniqueness: true
- 003 has_secure_password

Editing controllers

Open app>controllers>users_controller.rb and amend the create and update definitions. When a user is created or edited we'll return the admin user to the main users listing to display all of them instead of showing a specific

user record. We can do this by changing the redirect to value for the HTML actions, pointing it to the users_url location. Find the full code on the disc.

```
002
       @user = User.new(params[:user])
003
        respond_to do |format|
004
          if @user.save
005
            format.html { redirect_to users_url, notice: 'User
            format.json { render json: @user, status: :created,
location: @user }
007
             format.html { render action: "new" }
             format.json { render json: @user.errors, status:
```

Amend the display

Open app>views>users/index.erb and delete the table header and row that would output the hashed password on the screen. Beneath the h1 tag add a conditional statement to output a notice variable if it exists, which will be returned from the user controller after a successful update to the database. Once again, the full code is on the disc.

001 <% if notice %>

002 <%= notice %>

003 <% end %>

Password input

Rails can automatically handle password confirmation when entering a record. Open app>views>users>form.html.erb and replace the password digest form field with two new fields: password and password_confirmation. Get the complete step code on the CD.

001 <div> 002 <%= f.label :password, 'Password' %>:



Develop a secure login with RoR: part2



```
003 <%= f.password_field :password, size: 40 %>
004 </div>
005 <div>
006 <%= f.label :password_confirmation, 'Confirm' %>:
007 <%= f.password_field :password_confirmation, size: 40 %>
008 </div>
```

07 Authentication

To control access to our administrative areas we need to create two different controllers. The Sessions controller will handle persisting, logging in and logging out an authenticated user, while the Admin controller will act as the welcome screen for logged-in users. Run the following commands in your Terminal window to generate these controllers.

```
001 > rails generate controller Sessions new create destroy
002 > rails generate controller Admin index
```

Defining actions

Add the authentication actions to the Sessions controller. Open app>controllers>sessions_controller.rb and include the following code within the create definition. For an unsuccessful authentication attempt, we will redirect the user back to the log-in area by way of a friendly error message. Similarly, for logout, we also need to destroy the stored session user ID and redirect back to the homepage.

```
001 def create
002 user = User.find_by_name(params[:name])
003 if user and user.authenticate(params[:password])
004 session[:user_id] = user.id
005 redirect_to admin_url
006 else
007 redirect_to login_url, alert: "Invalid user/password
combination"
008 end
009 end
010 def destroy
```

```
011 session[:user_id] = nil
012 redirect_to home_url, notice: "Logged out"
013 end
```

og Log-in form

001 <% if flash[:alert] %>

Open app>views>sessions>new.html.erb into which we'll add the log-in form to allow for authentication. In this form we are not relating directly to any model object, but we can make use of some helper methods to create the form, text input and password input fields on our behalf.

```
002 <%= flash[:alert] %>
003 <% end %>
004 <div id="login-form">
005 <h4>Please Log In</h4>
006 <fieldset>
007 <label for="name" >Name:</label>
008 <%= text_field_tag :name, params[:name] %>
009 </fieldset>
010 <fieldset>
011 root :to => 'home#index', as: 'home'
012 <label for="password" >Password:</label>
013 <%= password_field_tag :password, params[:password] %>
014 </fieldset>
015 <= submit_tag "Login", :class => "button button-pink">>
016 <% end %>
017 </div>
```

Include routes

Our generated controller created some simple routing options for our Sessions and Admin requests. We will redefine them ourselves to manage the login/logout. Open config>routes.rb and delete the generated routes for sessions. We can now set new routes for the Sessions and Admin controllers. Find the complete set of code on the disc.

```
001 get 'admin' => "admin#index"

002 controller :sessions do

003 get 'login' => :new

004 post 'login' => :create

005 delete 'logout' => :destroy
```

11 Limiting access

We now turn our attention to restricted areas. Open app>controllers> application_controllerrb and assert that all actions must run the authorize definition before a request filter is processed. This will check for an existence of the user ID in the session scope and, if not found, force the user to log in.

```
001 before_filter :authorize
002 def authorize
003 unless User.find_by_id(session[:user_id])
004 redirect_to login_url, notice: "Please log in"
005 end
```

Public areas

We need to allow for some publicly accessible areas of the site that don't force login. To do this we can use the skip_before filter function, which will bypass the default application behaviour set in the previous step. Add the following line in the Sessions and Home controller files.

```
001 skip_before_filter :authorize
```

<tutorials>

Develop a secure login with RoR: part 2

Create the layout

Open app>views>layouts>application.html.erb, which provides the default layout for pages within the app. In the head tag we can make use of RoR functions to load the default stylesheet and JavaScript as well as create a CSRF token to assist in protecting against XSS attacks. The full code can be found on the cover disc.

```
001 <head>
002
     <!--META Tags-->
003
     <meta charset='utf-8'>
      <meta name="description" content="">
004
005
      <meta name="author" content="">
006
     <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-</pre>
width.initial- scale=1">
007
    <!--Title-->
    <title>Ruby on Rails Blog</title>
009
    <%= stylesheet_link_tag "application" %>
010
    <%= javascript_include_tag "application" %>
011
     <%= csrf_meta_tags %>
    <!--HTML5 IE Fallback-->
012
```

Getting SASSy

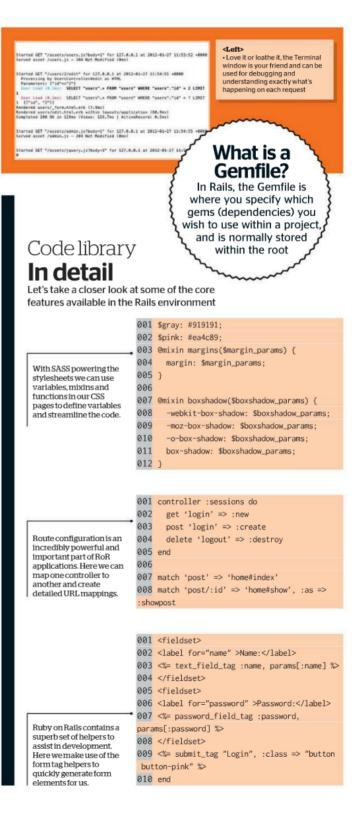
Ruby on Rails provides developers with the ability to write CSS files using the SASS syntax and nested elements. This can really help with maintenance and management as well as improving readability. Rename app>assets>stylesheets>application.css to 'application.css.css' and then add the provided CSS styling, Complete code is on the CD.

```
001 footer {
002 clear:both;
003
      text-align:center;
004
      padding:30px:
005
      line-height: 20px;
006
      color:#838383;
007
008
        color:#989898;
009
010
      ul li {>
011
012
       list-style:none;
```

Dynamic navigation

Open app>views>layout>application.html.erb into which we'll add a navigation menu to the global template. By searching for the existence of a specific user ID value within the session scope we can display the relevant menu options depending on whether or not the user is currently logged in.

```
001 
        002 <= link_to 'Home', home_path %>
        003 <% if session[:user_id] %>
        004 <= link_to 'Posts', posts_path %>
        005 <= link_to 'Users', users_path %>
        006 <= link_to 'Users', logout_path, method:</li>
        :delete %>
        007 <% else %>
        008 <= link_to 'Login', login_path, method: :get</li>
        %>
        009 <% end %>
        010
```



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Building on last month's tutorial, learn how to add a Twitter feed to your page using JavaScript Object Notation

tools | tech | trends Text editor (eg Dreamweaver; not Microsoft Word) and a web browser experts Eric Freeman, Elisabeth Robson



n the previous tutorial you saw how to generate JSON strings for practically any JavaScript object and how to re-create objects from those strings.

Using JSON, you can stash objects in the browser's local storage for later use.

In this article we're going to take this to the next level by retrieving JSON over the network from web services, and then using those objects in our JS code. More specifically, you're going to make use of Twitter's web

First we'll write code to take a JSON object containing tweets and display those in a webpage. Next, we'll use a protocol named JSONP to retrieve a set of tweets. As you'll see, JSONP can be used to fetch data from a remote service without worrying about any cross-domain security issues. Finally, we'll put all this together and display live tweets each time the page is loaded. In our example we're retrieving the most recent tweets from @WebDesignerMag, but once you've got the

hang of it, you can tap into any tweet timeline you like.

service to place a Twitter feed right into your page.

Begin with a list...

Start by creating an HTML file that contains a simple body with an unordered list (lines 10-11), where you'll be putting the tweets after you've retrieved them. You'll find this file, along with the CSS code to go with it, on the resource disc included with this issue.

```
001 <!doctype html>
002 <html lang="en">
003 <head>
004
     <title>WebDesigner Tweets</title>
     <meta_charset="utf-8" />
     <link rel="stylesheet" href="tweets.css">
     <script src="tweets.js"></script>
008 </head>
009 <body>
010
     ul id="tweetsList">
011
     012 </body>
013 </html>
```

Write a function to handle the tweets

Now start a function named processTweets() to take the tweets and display them; we'll worry about retrieving the tweets in a bit. Go ahead and add this code to the 'tweets.js' file (we'll fill in the code in step 4):

```
001 function processTweets(tweets) {
002 }
```

Understanding Twitter's JSON

To write the function processTweets(), you first need a basic understanding of how the Twitter feed works. Using your browser you can request any user's timeline in the JSON format. Let's take a look at an example by entering this URL into your browser: http://twitter.com/statuses/user-timeline/webdesignermag.json.

Below is roughly what you'll find. We've removed some of the properties so you can see the structure more clearly; the complete data is on the CD.

```
001
002
003
       "place":null,
004
       "created_at": "Wed Jan 18 10:12:46 +0000 2012",
005
       "retweet_count":5,
       "user": {
006
         "followers_count":14954,
007
         "profile_image_url": "http:\/\/a1.twimg.com\/profile_
008
images\/822697867\/webdes_logo_normal.jpg",
         "statuses_count":645,
010
         "name":"WebDesignerMag",
```

One of the things you might have noticed in the previous tutorial is that JSON is easy to read and understand. The JSON from Twitter is in the form of an array of tweets – each tweet with its own properties including the user's screen name, the text of the tweet, what time they tweeted and much more.

Writing the processTweets() function

Now that you know what Twitter's JSON looks like, you can start filling in the processTweets() function. Essentially the function takes an array of tweets and displays them in the page. First, get the tweetsList
 where you'll be adding the data (line 2), then use a for loop to iterate through each tweet in the array passed to processTweets() (lines 5-8).

```
001 function processTweets(tweets) {
002    var ul = document.getElementById("tweetsList");
003
004    // add all tweets to the tweets menu
005    for (var i = 0; i < tweets.length; i++) {
006       var tweet = tweets[i];
007    // code to display each tweet here</pre>
```





008 }

Os Display tweets in the page

To display a tweet, use a list element in the tweetsList like this:

001 <div class="tweet">tweet text goes here</div>

In each <|i> element, we'll add a <div> and a with an embedded tweet (see the CSS included on the cover disc for styling).

Insert the HTML

Next, write the code to create and insert the HTML into the tweetsList list. Create a new <i>> element for each tweet (line 9), write the <di>> and elements to match the format above, add the to the <di>>, the <di>> to the <|>, and finally add each tweet item to the tweetsList <u|>. You can find the full code for this step on the disc.

```
001 function processData(tweets) {
002
        var ul = document.getElementById("tweetsList");
003
004
         // add all tweets to the tweets menu
        for (var i = 0; i < tweets.length; i++) {
005
006
            tweet = tweets[i];
007
008
            // create list item element
009
            var li = document.createElement("li");
010
```

Retrieving tweets

One way you can retrieve data from a web service with JavaScript is by using the XMLHttpRequest method (also known as AJAX). Only there's a problem with using AJAX: it enforces security measures that prevent you from making a request if your page and the web service you want to contact aren't located within the same domain. Twitter isn't likely to host your page on its site or to go through a lot of security configurations to support your page so

XMLHttpRequest simply isn't a viable option for retrieving tweets. If you aren't familiar with XMLHttpRequest, no worries, as we won't be using it here.

Introducing JSONP

JSONP is a simple protocol you can use to retrieve data that gets around these cross-domain security issues. We'll warn you now, it's a little convoluted. That said, it is widely supported and well worth the effort to learn. The first thing to know about JSONP is that it uses a <script> element to retrieve data - note that when the browser sees a <script> element with a URL in the src attribute, it automatically downloads the JavaScript at that URL. In fact, that JavaScript can be a JSON string, so you can use a <script> element to retrieve JSON data. Here's an example: to retrieve the JSON using the Twitter URL we used above, you can use a script element like this:

001 f<script src="http://twitter.com/statuses/user_timeline/
webdesignermag.json"></script>

Mow JSONP works

Now, you might be thinking, 'That's great, but how do I get my hands on the JSON that the <script> element retrieves?' And you'd be right to ask. This is where JSONP gets a little convoluted. To access the JSON retrieved by the <script> element, you need to supply one more piece of the URL: a callback function that can take the JSON as an argument when it is obtained. With Twitter you provide the callback function like this:

001 <script src="http://twitter.com/statuses/user_timeline/
webdesignermag.json?callback=processTweets"></script>

The meaning of the 'P'

If you type the URL above into the browser you'll see that the JSON tweet data is now wrapped in a function call to the function processTweets(). That function call wrapping is known as 'padding' (the 'P' in JSONP). Note that the results from Twitter are just like any other JavaScript you retrieve using the <script> element - the browser runs that JS code just like it would any other. When the browser runs the JavaScript it gets from Twitter, it will call your processTweets() function and pass in the JSON data for the tweets.

The handler

Fortunately you've already written a processTweets() function that knows just what to do with the array of tweets. Think through how this works again before going on: first you use a <script> element to retrieve the JSON at the URL above. Further, you supply a callback function, and once the JSON is delivered it is passed to that function – in this case, processTweets(), which handles the data. (Note that you don't have to explicitly JSON, parse() the JSON that's retrieved; that is handled for you by the <script> element.)

Putting it all together

To see this all in action, add the <script> element to your HTML at the bottom of the page. The full step code is on the disc.

Give your code a test run by loading it into your browser, You should see tweets from @WebDesignerMag now appearing in the page.

Utilise the other data

There is lots of other useful information included in each tweet object that you can access using process Tweets(). For instance, you can get the user's screen name and profile image. Let's add the user's profile image to each list item, and use the screen name as the alt attribute. First, create the new image with the src property and the alt property set using the tweetuser properties profile_image_url_https and screen_name, respectively, and add the image to a <div> element with the class 'tweetImage'. Finally, add the tweetImage <div> to the element.

```
001 function processData(tweets) {
002
        var ul = document.getElementById("tweetsList");
003
         // add all tweets to the tweets menu
        for (var i = 0; i < tweets.length; i++) {
004
005
             tweet = tweets[i];
006
             // create list item element
007
            var li = document.createElement("li"):
008
            // create div for img
009
             var divImg = document.createElement("div");
010
             divImg.setAttribute("class", "tweetImage");
011
012
             var img = document.createElement("img");
013
             img.setAttribute("src", tweet.user.profile_
image_url_https):
        img.setAttribute("alt", tweet.user.screen_name);
014
015
             divImg.appendChild(img);
016
017
             // create div for tweet text
018
           var divTweet = document.createElement("div"):
019
             divTweet.setAttribute("class", "tweet");
020
             // create span for text
021
           var spanText = document.createElement("span");
022
             spanText.setAttribute("class", "tweetText");
023
             spanText.innerHTML = tweet.text:
024
             divTweet.appendChild(spanText);
025
             li.appendChild(divImg);
026
             li.appendChild(divTweet);
027
028
             // add list item to list
029
             ul.appendChild(li);
030
031}
```

Test your code

Load the page again and you should see @WebDesignerMag tweets in the page, along with the profile image of this Twitter user.

Update tweets automatically

Currently your code fetches tweets only once. To see new tweets, you have to reload the page. Wouldn't it be nice if your page automatically updated every so often? To do this, you need to insert the «script» element with the JSONP URL with JavaScript. When you insert a «script» element into the page (in the DOM), the browser sees that a new «script» element has been added and collects the code at the URL. Because that code happens to be JSONP, this causes the processData() function to be called. To get the page to automatically fetch new JSONP data, you can use a timer and call a function that adds a new «script» element to the page every time that it's called.

Insert the <script> element

With the new function, insertScript(), you'll create the <script> element on the fly and add it to the DOM. Before you start writing the new JS, you need to remove (or comment out) the existing <script> element in your HTML; we won't need that any more as we'll be adding the <script> using JavaScript. You're going to add the <script> element into the <head> element of the page, so the first step is to get the <head> element (line 2). Notice that we're using document.getElementsByTagName() and choosing the first item from the resulting array, because you should only have one <head> element in your DOM! Next, create a string with the correct URL, write in the new <script> element (line 4) and use the URL string as the value for the src attribute (line 5). You can then apply the new <script> element to the <head> (line 6).

```
001 function insertScript() {
002    var head = document.getElementsByTagName("head")[0];
003    var src = "http://twitter.com/statuses/user_timeline/
webdesignermag.json?callback=processData";
004    var jsonScript = document.createElement("script");
005    jsonScript.setAttribute("src", src);
006    head.appendChild(jsonScript);
007 }
```

Test the insertScriptO function

Before you add the timer, you first need to test insertScript(). To do this, add an onload function that calls insertScript() at the top of your JS code (lines 1-3). This function will run as soon as your page loads. Once you've added this function, test the code and see if you get tweets correctly.

```
001 window.onload = function() {
002    insertScript();
003 }
```

Perfect timing

The next step is to add a timer function to call insertScript() repeatedly, so your page updates automatically. Add a call to setTimeout() at the bottom of the insertScript() function. The timer is calling insertScript() again, so whenever insertScript() is called, a new timer is created to call insertScript() the next time; that way insertScript() will keep running until you close the browser page. We've used the timeout value 25000, which means insertScript() will be called every 25 seconds. (Note that Twitter sets a rate limit of 150 requests per hour, so you can set it lower for testing purposes, but then you'll want to set it to 25 seconds or higher for real-world use.)

```
001 // Append line below to bottom of insertScript
002 setTimeout("insertScript();", 25000);
003 }
```

Out with the old

Now that you're calling insertScript() repeatedly, we need to do one more thing to make sure that the page works correctly. Look back at where you are adding new tweets to the page in insertScript():

001 ul.appendChild(li);

Unless you remove the previous tweets from the list, the tweets you get when you call insertScript() again will be added to the page. That means you'll see a lot of the same tweets twice or more times. To fix this simply add a loop at the top of insertScript() that removes all the tweets in the tweetsList
 adding the tweets resulting from the most recent JSONP call. As long as the
 cul> contains a child (line 5), remove it (line 6). Find the full code on the CD.



```
001 function processData(tweets) {
002
        var ul = document.getElementById("tweetsList");
003
004
      // remove existing children before adding new ones
005
      while (ul.firstChild) {
006
            ul.removeChild(ul.firstChild):
007 }
008
        // add all tweets to the tweets menu
009
       for (var i = 0; i < tweets.length; i++) {
010
    tweet = tweets[i]:
```

We have a problem!

If you test your code and compare the tweet results with the tweets you see directly on Twitter, you might notice that you're not seeing new tweets. Why? The problem is that you're inserting the same <script> element each time. Most browsers these days are smart about caching, so your browser will very likely look at the new <script> URL and realise it's the same URL it just fetched a few seconds earlier. It will then use the data it retrieved and helpfully cached for you as the result of the call to the <script> src URL. Except that you don't want the browser to cache this data because that means you'll never see new tweets... So how can you get around this problem? Well, you can fool the browser into thinking you have a new URL each time by adding a random number on the end. like this:

001 http://twitter.com/statuses/user_timeline/webdesignermag. json?callback=pr ocessData&1326507461201

What's the time?

We'll use the current time in milliseconds to generate the random number that will be added to the end of the URL. Why is this a particularly good number to use? Because it is unique and, unless you use a timeout value of one millisecond or less in your setTimeout() function, you can guarantee it will never be the same as the previous value. To get the current time in milliseconds, utilise the Date object's getTime() method (line 3). Then simply append the value to the end of the URL (line 4). Make sure you add an ampersand (&) to the end of the URL string to separate the callback function name from the random string.

```
001 function insertScript() {
002    var head = document.getElementsByTagName("head")[0];
003    var random = (new Date()).getTime();
004    var src = "http://twitter.com/statuses/user timeline/webdesignermag.json?callback=processData&" + random;
005    var jsonScript = document.createElement("script");
006    jsonScript.setAttribute("src", src);
```

Test, test, test

If you reload the page, you should now see new tweets as they come in. Feel free to change the user ID in the URL above to a different one, like your own, if you want to be able to test your application more easily (since @WebDesignerMag may not post that frequently).

Clear your <head>

You may already be wondering about the number of <script> elements in the <head>, because we're adding a new <script> element every time insertScript() is called, so if you set your timer to call insertScript() every few seconds, and you leave the page loaded for a while, the <head> element in the page is going to get very full. Too many <script> elements will slow down and possibly even crash your browser, so let's add some code to clean up the <head> element and remove the old <script> each time we add a new one.



Add an ID to the new <script>

To make the existing JSONP <script> element easy to find and remove, you can add an ID attribute to the <script> each time you create it. Give the <script> the ID 'isonScript'.

```
jsonScript.setAttribute("id", "jsonScript");
jsonScript.setAttribute("src", src);
head.appendChild(jsonScript);

ead.appendChild(jsonScript);

setTimeout("insertScript();", 25000);

ead.appendChild(jsonScript);
```

Remove the old jsonScript

Next, you need to remove the old jsonScript <script> each time you add a new one. The first time you run your application, there will be no jsonScript <script> yet, so you also need to test to make sure it's not null before trying to remove it. So first, try to get the jsonScript <script> element from the DOM (line 2), and then test to see if it exists (line 4). If it does exist, erase it from the DOM by removing the element from the <head> element using the removeChild() method (line 5). Now when you add the new <script>, it will be the only jsonScript <script> element in the <head>, and your <head> element will stay unclustered. The complete code is on the CD.

```
001 function insertScript() {
002     var jsonScript = document.getElementById("jsonScript");
003     var head = document.getElementsByTagName("head")[0];
004     if (jsonScript) {
005         head.removeChild(jsonScript);
006     }
007     var random = (new Date()).getTime();
008     var src = "http://twitter.com/statuses/user_timeline/webdesignermag.json?callback=processData&" + random;
```

Final test and homework

Test your code one last time. Leave the page open for a while to see if new tweets come in. Try a few different user IDs of your favourite tweeters in the URL. To test your JSON and JavaScript skills, see if you can use another property from the tweet data. You'll have to dig through the data you get from Twitter using the original URL - http://twitter.com/statuses/user-timeline/webdesignermag.json - to see if you can parse the JSON data and figure out how to access the property you want to use. We've included a solution in the file 'tweets_homework.js' to get the created_at property (the date and time of the tweet) and properly format it by converting the string to a JS Date object, and pulling out just the information we want to display. Try working on getting the created at property yourself, or pick another one if you prefer.

Your favourite magazines n









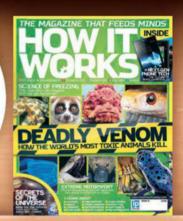
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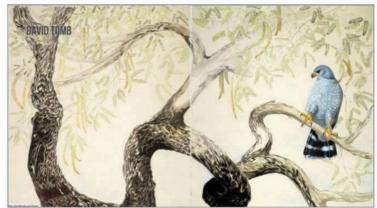
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01 http://petitcafefremont.com



Forrest Tanaka

web http://forrest-tanaka.com

Current role Web designer/developer and photographer

Education BSc in Computer Science

Expertise HTML4, XHTML, HTML5, CSS, CSS3, JavaScript. PHP, WordPress, Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator,

Dreamweaver, MAMP

Clients FLAX art & design, Peter Barto, David Tomb, Frodo

loe's Petit Café Pacific Color Graphics

Twitter @ForrestTanaka

Forrest Tanaka appreciates websites that make the web a better place to be - clear to navigate, clean of clutter; generally a more beautiful place to get stuff done quickly. All his designs follow this philosophy and it serves his clients' needs well.

Tanaka started designing websites in his hometown of Pleasanton, CA, just out of curiosity. Very quickly, the beauty and clarity of some websites and the shortcomings of others began to direct his designs. "That which isn't needed should be deleted" became his maxim. Finishing a site fitting that goal brings the greatest satisfaction to this designer. He now specialises in web design and photography for a range of businesses.

Content management systems became an obvious place to expand into, but the complexity of Drupal and Joomla left Tanaka disappointed. He then investigated WordPress and virtually everything changed; it had the right level of complexity and simplicity for both him as a developer and his clients.

From 2010, every site he designed used WordPress to drive it. His clients appreciate the ability to edit their content, and he appreciates the platform's ability to provide the right tools for virtually any job at hand.

Going forward, Tanaka studies HTML5 features that can take even more advantage of computer hardware. Responsive websites need more exploration, as he feels they often lead to sites that don't serve their visitors well.

The web is mature, but Tanaka feels businesses on the web are only in their infancy, and he is excited for what the future holds.



This reflects the restaurant's warm. atmosphere and shows the same graphics as at the establishment. The curved navigation leads to the food imagery Tanaka also shot.

Tomb's site is all about his work. so the splash screen is filled with a big painting and his homepage has a number of other pieces, all without big download times.

This art supply store often boasts new products and the site allows them to display WP posts on the homepage. There's the option to add new sections via WP too.

Patients' comfort was the main. theme, so this site features soft gradients and a fading navigation. Tanaka also supplied the logo and much of the photography.

Barto's site shows off his voice. talent with HTML5 video and audio players that work across all modern devices. It features a distinctly minimalist design.

94 portfolio



Amit Das

web www.kriainteractive.com

Currentrole Founder, designer and developer at Kria Interactive Education Bachelor of Engineering in Information Technology Expertise Adobe Illustrator and Fireworks, Dreamweaver, Coda, HTML, CSS, WordPress, JavaScript and more

Clients Subway India, Minority Review, Hard Candy Fashion Twitter @Godgeez

Amit Das is a web designer and developer with experience ranging from visual design to user experience and on to both front-end and back-end development.

After working with a leading design agency in Mumbai, he decided to start out with his own web-design firm - Kria Interactive - in 2010, based in Pune in central India.

Das has been fortunate enough to work with some of the most prominent brands in India in the fashion, real-estate, eCommerce and creative startup industries. For most of these projects, he was responsible for the websites from day one - from the very first concept all the way through to launch.

He has always liked putting across ideas that successfully manage to be both visually appealing and informative. He sees the web as an accessible platform for these ideas to be put to use and be of use. Designing for the internet allows him to constantly learn new technologies through an interesting creative process, one which transforms a humble rough draft to a dynamic working website.

He has recently been inspired by Ethan Marcotte's brilliant take on responsive web design - a revolutionary concept for adapting web layouts across all desktop and mobile devices. He follows A List Apart and the WDMag blog to stay up to date with all the latest web-design trends.

Apart from designing sites, Das likes to read design blogs, web-design books, sketch monsters in his moleskine notebook, write informative articles on his blog (http:// godgeez.com) and play foosball.

Currently he lives in Pune, where he runs his small design studio from home.



05 www.kriainteractive.com/v2









Minority Review is a contentheavy site designed for easy access to its reviews, features and undates. A customised WP panel offers effortless updating.

The Hard Candy homepage is based on a semi-fluid layout. It displays apparel category thumbnails and also features language-switching options.

The website has earthy tones and lots of Vidya Warli art. Being an NGO, the contribute and volunteer functionality had to be pointed up prominently.

Holy Ghost DHM and Football academy is designed to provide users with info on the ministry and academy with videos, the church schedule and more.

Fireworks, HTML and CSS combine to present an infographic-style user interface. The icon and shape themes have been used to keep the content light and interactive.

95 portfolio



Hotbeds of worldwide web design

Glasgow

What does Scotland's second city have to offer?



Adeo Group www.adeogroup.co.uk

Originally graphic design focused, Adeo was one of the first companies to recognise the potential of next-gen eCommerce, and how combining attractively designed websites with powerful internet marketing strategies would be a sound recipe for businesses everywhere to enjoy huge profits. However, Adeo also strives to make all of its clients feel fully supported and comfortable with their websites; its aim is to be a company with the human touch.











Glasgow is Scotland's primary centre of business and industry. As one of the top 20 financial hubs in Europe, the city's corporate activity forms part of the backbone to the British economy.

Historically known as an industrial city, Glasgow was once a key part of both the shipbuilding and coal-mining industries, but since the Eighties, when the financial district was created, it has developed into a more cosmopolitan, diverse and leisure-focused location.

The city's shopping and theatre district reflects a new focus on recreation and the arts, and the shopping malls are second only to London's, but can Glaswegian web design size up to its leisure industry?

Buchanan Street is Glasgow's main shopping precinct and has been voted the seventh best shopping area in the world. The city holds an impressive retail portfolio and, as well as the high street stores, the St Enoch Centre and Buchanan Galleries offer a selection of designer wear.

The merchant city area was regenerated back in the Eighties and its warehouse conversions have transformed this industrial district to a much sought-after property area. Many cafés and restaurants have been recently opened and this neighbourhood actively celebrates diversity.

Glasgow's West End is the city's culture and education centre. In this bohemian district, there is a wide range of museums - very few of which charge entrance fees. Must-sees are the Kelvingrove Art Gallery, the Hunterian Museum and the Museum of Transport.

Glasgow has the greatest concentration of creative industries in Scotland and one of the largest in the UK, outside London. The city is a hub of thriving creativity of all disciplines that is only growing bigger and better.

Glasgow's West End is the city's culture and education centre

360innovate

www.360innovate.co.uk

Web design, bespoke development and online marketing are at the heart of 360innovate; combining these skills and knowledge they are able to provide tailored and flexible web solutions to suit any online requirements. They believe that a website should be an invaluable marketing tool fulfilling a purpose, and this is always central to the company's approach.



Alienation Digital www.alienationdigital.

Alienation Digital was founded over 12 years ago through a desire to provide creative solutions in a digital world. Now a leading agency it has a client base that features both national and international brands. As a fullservice web agency they provide solutions from initial consultancy right through to delivery, marketing and the ongoing management of web projects.







PoLR www.polr.co.uk The PoLR team are not afraid to admit they are geeks - in fact, they are proud of it. They claim to eat, breathe and sleep websites

and can guarantee that they have many years of experience in the online arena. They provide web design, SEO, branding and copywriting services to get any client on the road to online success.







Mucky Puddle www.muckvpuddle.com

Mucky Puddle is a provider of professional website design and graphic design services for a wide-ranging clientele. The team has experience working with large public-sector organisations as well as with small startups and work

closely with all their clients to create beneficial solutions. They love what they do and it shows in their portfolio.



Recommended hotspots



Yusuf Chauhdry, sales director **Botanic Gardens**

The 'green' place in the city. It's extremely peaceful here, making it the ideal place to get away from the hustle and bustle. The acclaimed tropical glasshouses truly make this a Glasgow 'hotspot'!



Zoe Spence, graphic designer The Glasgow School of Art

The Glasgow School of Art is one of Europe's most revered education institutions that provides world-class creative education and research. For me, the library is a personal highlight.



Pam Turner, senior web developer Glasgow Film Theatre

97

There's no better place for film aficionados to enjoy classic films, specially curated cinematic seasons or cult guilty pleasures than here. Café Cosmo is perfect for a pre-movie coffee and natter.

trend map



Talent directory

Get listed here Whether you need to hire web-design services or just want to locate the trade's best creative teams, our chart can help...

2ADVANCED

chat@agencyrepublic.com

www.awpny.com/pages/feedback

info@angellondon.co.uk.

Find out how to add your agency to our chart by contacting the team at the following address: webdesigner@imagine-publishing co.uk

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2Advanced Studios www.2advanced.com

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Country USA Twitter ID 2advanced

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Contact into@Zachan.ced.com.
Clients Adobe, Bacardi, Diesel

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0845 468 0959

607 277 2757

Established in 1999, 2Advanced is an award-winning interactive agency dedicated to pushing the creative boundaries of design and technology to deliver high-impact, rich media solutions. It boasts an exceptional reputation in Adobe Flash design and offers a host of services including interactive design, CMS solutions, eCommerce, motion graphics, 3D illustration and video production.

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Azexis

www.angellondon.co.uk-

www.awpny.com

www.azexis.com

City Ipswich Telephone 01473 694500 Contact sales@azexis.com Country UK Twitter ID Azexis

Clients BBC, Kla, Business Link, LSC

- Iwitteri



With a heritage in design and development since 1999, Azexis is an interactive agency with a talented team of specialists all sharing a single drive to produce the best design, web and mobile solutions encompassing extraordinary functionality and creative design. Azexis offers a diverse range of services and supports an impressive array of clients worldwide.



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Clearleft http://clearleft.com

City Brighton
Telephone 0845 838 6163
Contact info@clearleft.com

Country UK Twitter ID clearleft

Clients WWF. Universal Networks. Channel 4 News. Mozilla



This Brighton-based agency offers world-class UX services, thanks to a stellar team of designers and developers specialising in understanding user requirements. Among the team are experts like Andy Budd, Richard Rutter and Jeremy Keith, who are also respected speakers on the international conference circuit.



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Hi-ReS!	www.hi-res.net	London	UK	02077293090	info@hi-res.net	N/A	Chanel, Dolce & Gabbana, Nike



Featured agency: Azexis www.azexis.com



A closer look at what each listed agency has to offer the community

Based in Ipswich and boasting an impressive 12 years in the interactive business, Azexis offers creative services spanning web design, eCommerce, branding and graphic design. Characterised by 'the Azexis difference', the team places emphasis on strict design standards, maximising functionality, utilising in-house expertise, affordability and customer support. With a client list that includes big names such as the BBC and Kia, as well as serving up its very own bespoke Evance CMS, this is definitely one firm to watch out for and consider working with in 2012.





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Mutado http://mutado.com

City Milan Telephone 39 02 34592733 Contact belio@mutado.com... Clients Vodafone, Yahool, Nike

Country Italy Twitter ID mutado

Country USA

Mutado was formed in 2004 by Lorenzo Manfredi and Mauro Gatti: a developer and a graphic designer whose paths crossed over a decade ago. During the last eight years it has grown into a solid independent digital agency, headquartered in Milan. The company's name relates to Mutado's constant mutation, adaption and transformation.





Next Digital

Night Agencv www.nightagency.com

City New York Telephone 212 431 1945

Twitter ID nightagency Contact info@nightagen

Clients Champion ESPN MTV 20th Century Fox

nightagency

Located in downtown NYC and founded in 2004, Night Agency is a 46-person team offering creative and marketing solutions alongside a full repertoire of web-design services. Site building, eCommerce, UX planning, GUI design and Flash or iPhone development are just a few of the areas where this agency excels.



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Underwired Amaze

www.underwired.com

City London Country UK Twitter ID underwired Telephone 020 7060 0400 Clients McCain Foods, Peugeot, Virgin, ASICS, NSPCC

underwired 😇



Now part of the Amaze network of companies after a 2009 merger. Underwired was founded as an agency 15 years ago. Started by Ruth Brecher, Jason Holland and Felix Velarde, it has become synonymous with customer engagement campaigns spanning websites, email newsletters, mobile applications and social media



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Offering more reasons for choosing one of the listed providers

STRATO is Europe's second largest web host with more than 1.4 million customers in six countries. Boasting two flagship data centres certified to ISO 27001 – housing a staggering 4 million domains across over 40,000 servers – they pride themselves on offering watertight levels of security and guaranteed service. When

it comes to hosting packages STRATO breaks products into Basic and Advanced categories, each offering two solutions depending on your requirements. An entry-level BasicWeb plan is an affordable £4 per month that comes with a free domain, 2GB of space and unlimited traffic, while the more expensive deals deliver some impressive extras.

The street of th	PACKAGE	IONE NUMBER	COST PER YEAR	EB SPACE	AONTHLY BANDWIDTH	OP3 ACCOUNTS	ATABASE SUPPORT	IOPPING CART	VIRUS FILTER	FIREWALL	PHONE SUPPORT	EMAIL SUPPORT	WEB CONTROL PANEL	SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT
	A A	±	8	>	ž	P P P		장	>	正	ᅕ	面	3	SE
Designwasp (http://designwasp.com)	Business	0844 372 9848	£60	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	/	1	х	1	х	1	1	х
Designwasp (http://designwasp.com)	Windows Unlimited	0844 372 9848	260	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	1	1	×	1	х	1	1	х
Designwasp (http://designwasp.com)	Windows Home	0844 372 9848	£40	10GB	50G8	1,000	1	1	×	1	х	1	1	Х
Designwasp (http://designwasp.com)	CheapHost	0844 372 9848	£10	300MB	100MB	5	х	×	×	1	х	х	1	×
Digital Gibbon Ltd (http://digitalgibbon.com)	Personal	01865 589 990	£12	1GB	Unlimited	10	1	Х	×	1	1	1	1	×
Digital Gibbon Ltd (http://digitalgibbon.com)	Personal Plus	01865 589 990	£48	Unlimited	Unlimited	50	1	Х	×	1	/	1	1	×
Digital Gibbon Ltd (http://digitalgibbon.com)	Business	01865 589 990	£108	5GB	Unlimited	1000	1	1	X	1	1	1	1	Х
Digital Gibbon Ltd (http://digitalgibbon.com)	Business Professional	01865 589 990	£132	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	1	1	Х	1	1	1	1	Х
Domaincheck (www.domaincheck.co.uk)	Bronze Linux	0191 261 2252	£30	100MB	1GB	5	х	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Domaincheck (www.domaincheck.co.uk)	Gold Linux	0191 261 2252	£100	500MB	5G8	25	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Domaincheck (www.domaincheck.co.uk)	Bronze Windows	0191 261 2252	£30	100MB	1GB	5	х	/	1	1	1	1	1	1
Domaincheck (www.domaincheck.co.uk)	Gold Windows	0191 261 2252	£100	500MB	5GB	25	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Donhost (www.donhost.co.uk)	Reseller Unix	0845 226 5566	£399.99	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	1	Х	1	1	1	1	1	×
Donhost (www.donhost.co.uk)	Reseller Windows	0845 226 5566	£499.99	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	1	Х	1	1	1	1	1	×
Donhost (www.donhost.co.uk)	Enterprise	0845 226 5566	£89.99	1GB	2G8	250	1	Х	1	1	1	1	1	Х
Donhost (www.donhost.co.uk)	Commerce	0845 226 5566	£179.99	2GB	5G8	500	1	Х	1	1	1	1	1	×
Donhost (www.donhost.co.uk)	Designer	0845 226 5566	£119.99	1GB	2G8	250	1	Х	1	1	1	1	1	×
Donhost (www.donhost.co.uk)	Developer	0845 226 5566	£259.99	2GB	5G8	500	1	Х	1	1	1	1	1	×
eHosting (www.ehosting.com)	Starter	0844 999 4100	£23.88	1GB	25GB	10	х	Х	×	×	х	1	1	1
eHosting (www.ehosting.com)	Personal	0844 999 4100	£59.88	2.5GB	Unlimited	50	1	Х	×	×	х	1	1	1
eHosting (www.ehosting.com)	Expert	0844 999 4100	£95.88	5GB	Unlimited	250	1	Х	Х	Х	х	1	1	1
eHosting (www.ehosting.com)	Virtual	0844 999 4100	£227.88	50GB	Unlimited	Unlimited	1	Х	Х	Х	1	1	1	1
Equiphase (www.equiphase.net)	Bronze	0121 314 4865	£30	200MB	2G8	10	1	1	X	1	х	1	1	1
Equiphase (www.equiphase.net)	Silver	0121 314 4865	£42	400MB	5G8	20	1	/	×	1	х	1	1	1
Equiphase (www.equiphase.net)	Gold	0121 314 4865	£72	800MB	10GB	100	1	1	×	1	х	1	1	1
Equiphase (www.equiphase.net)	Platinum	0121 314 4865	E114	1,200MB	40GB	200	/	/	1	1	1	1	1	1
Eurofasthost.com.(www.aurofasthost.com)	Email Only	02380 249 823	£40	1GB	2GB	10	х	×	1	1	1	1	1	1
Eurofasthosl.com.(www.eurofasthosl.com).	Essential	02380 249 823	£75	2GB	5G8	10	х	Х	1	1	1	1	1	1
Eurofasthost.com.(www.eurofasthost.com)	Superior	02380 249 823	£140	5GB	10GB	25	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Eurofasthost.com/www.eurofasthost.com)	Premium	02380 249 823	£250	10GB	25GB	100	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Evohosting (www.evohosting.co.uk)	Starter	N/A	£29.99	500MB	1GB	3	1	/	1	1	х	1	1	1
Evohosting (www.evohosting.co.uk)	Home	N/A	£54.99	2.5GB	30GB	50	1	1	1	1	х	1	1	1
Evohosting (www.evohosting.co.uk)	Business	N/A	£79.99	6.5GB	Unlimited	Unlimited	1	1	1	1	х	1	1	1
Evohosting (www.evohosting.co.uk)	eCommerce	N/A	£159.99	30GB	Unlimited	Unlimited	1	/	1	1	х	1	/	1
-10	Personal Standard	0844 583 0777	£53.88	5GB	Unlimited	500	1	Х	1	1	1	1	1	х
fasthosts	Business Standard	0844 583 0777	£95.88	25GB	Unlimited	1,000	/	Option	/	/	/	/	/	×
	Business Premium	08445830777	£173.88	50GB	Unlimited	Unlimited	1	1	1	1	1	1	/	X
Fasthosts	WD Starter Reseller	0844 583 0777	£149.99	20GB	Unlimited	Unlimited	/	Option	Option	/	1	/	/	х
www.fasthosts.co.uk	Advanced Reseller	0844 583 0777	£199.99	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	1	Option	Option	/	1	1	/	Х
Giacom (www.giacom.com)	Business Pro	0800 542 7500	£199	100MB	2G8	100	/	/	1	1	1	1	/	1
Heart Internet (www.heartInternet.co.uk)	Starter Professional	0845 644 7750	£29.80	2.5GB	10GB	1,000	Х	×	Х	-	Х	1	/	1
Heart Internet (www.heartInternet.co.uk)	Home Professional	0845 644 7750	£89.99	10GB	50GB	10,000 Unlimited			Х		х	-	/	1
Heart Internet (www.heartinternet.co.uk)	Business Professional	0845 644 7750		Unlimited	Unlimited		1	/	,	,	X	,	,	1
Heart Internet (www.heartInternet.co.uk)	Reseller Professional	0845 644 7750	£299.99	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	/		×		х		,	1
Hostway (www.hostway.co.uk)	Silver	08081801880	£79.50	150MG	3GB	5	х	Option	1	1	X	,	,	X
Hostway (www.hostway.co.uk)	Gold	0808 180 1880	£139.50	300MB	5GB	10	1	Option	,	1	1	1	1	X
Hostway (www.hostway.co.uk)	Gold Plus	08081801880	£189.50	450MB	10GB	30 50	1	Option	1	,	,	,	,	Х
Hostway (www.hostway.co.uk)	Platinum Platinum Phys	0808 180 1880	£359.50	600MB	20G8	10	1	Option	,	,	/	,	,	X
Hostway (www.bosbway.co.uk)	Platinum Plus	08081801880	£599.50	1.2GB 50MB	40GB			Option		1		,	,	
Hostway (www.hostway.co.uk)	Email Plus	0808 180 1880	£49.95		N/A	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	X	,	,	X
ICUK www.icukhosting.co.uk-	Professional	0845 009 9175	£30	250MB	1GB	50	/	/	option	1	/	,	,	Х
ICUK www.icukhosting.co.uk.	Advanced	0845 009 9175	£50	2GB	2.5GB	150	1	1	option	1	,	,	,	X
ICUK www.icukhosting.co.uk	Enterprise	0845 009 9175	£80	2GB	500MB	Unlimited	1	,	option	1	,	,	,	X
ICUK www.icukhosting.co.uk	Professional Plus	0845 009 9175	£90	500MB	5GB	100	1	/	option	1	1	1	1	X

hosting listings 103





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Starter		£37.08	10GB	100GB	Unlimited	×	X	1	1	1	1	1	
Home Pro		£62.28	25GB	500GB	Unlimited	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Business	01604 212904	£103.08	75GB	Unlimited	Unlimited	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Reseller	01604 212904	£103.08	100GB	Unlimited	Unlimited	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
StartUp Plus	0845 363 3632	£89.99	500MB	5GB	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Business	0845 363 3632	£149.99	2,000MB	20GB	100	х	Х	1	1	1	1	1	
Business Plus	0845 363 3632	£89.99	3,000MB	30GB	200	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Designer	0845 363 3632	£239.88	1GB	20GB	200	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Designer Plus	0845 363 3632	£479.88	Unlimited	30GB	Unlimited	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
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Email	N/A N/A	£25	100MB	1GB	10	, v	*	,	1	×	/	,	
/	N/A N/A		750MB	1GB 5GB	10	^	*	,	,	X	,	,	
		£65					,		,	*	-	,	
Plus		COE	200										
Power	N/A	£95	2GB	10GB	100	,	1	1	4	Х	/	1	
Power R3 Reseller	N/A N/A	£660	10GB	50GB	Unlimited	1	1	1	1	×	1	1	
Power R3 Reseller Reddex Design Starter	N/A N/A 0843 289 4625	£660 £18	10GB 1GB	50GB Unlimited	Unlimited 10	1	/ /	1	1	X V	1	1	
Power R3 Reseller Reddex Design Starter Reddex Design Business	N/A N/A 0843 289 4625 0843 289 4625	£660 £18 £59.88	10GB 1GB 10GB	50GB Unlimited Unlimited	Unlimited 10 100	1 1	/ / /	· · ·	1 1	X	<i>y y y</i>	1 1 1	
Power R3 Reseller Reddex Design Starter	N/A N/A 0843 289 4625	£660 £18	10GB 1GB	50GB Unlimited	Unlimited 10	1 1 1	/ / / /	1 1	1 1 1	X	1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1	
	Home Pro Business Reseller Startup Plus Business Plus Designer Designer Plus DEVELOPER ONE RESELLER VM500 Server 2200DC Server 3000DC Server 2600QC Server Shared 100 V\$200 V\$200 U\$300 Dedicated Servers Email	Premium Plus 0845 009 9175 Enterprise Plus 0845 009 9175 Reseller Windows 0845 009 9175 Reseller Linux 0845 009 9175 Reseller Enterprise 0845 009 9175 Reseller - R25 0800 043 0153 Home - H25 0800 043 0153 Home - H25 0800 043 0153 Reseller - R25 0800 043 0153 Reseller - R105 0800 043 0153 Reseller - R1048 342 490 Dynamic 01438 342 490 Drimitted (Linux) 07891 235858 LD Pro (Linux) 07891 235858 LD Pro (Linux) 07891 235858 LD Pro (Linux) 07891 235858 Windows Unlimitted	Premium Plus	Premium Plus	Premium Plus	Premium Plus	Premium Plus	Permitum Plus	Premium Plus	Permium Plus	Permism Plus	Perminam Plus	Permittim Plas





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hosting listings

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weet us today with your nosting comments and advice WebDesignerMag	PACKAGE	PHONE NUMBER	COST PER YEAR	WEB SPACE	MONTHLY BANDV	POP3 ACCOUNTS	DATABASE SUPPO	SHOPPING CART	VIRUS FILTER	FIREWALL	PHONE SUPPORT	EMAIL SUPPORT	WEB CONTROL P.	SERVICE LEVEL A
NAME AND URL	A A	ᆂ	8	>	ž	9 A	2	ᄷ	>	臣	ᆂ	ú	3	SE
Skymarket (www.skymarket.co.uk)	Premium 1	0800 321 7788	£99	25MB	2G8	1	1	Х	1	1	1	1	1	1
Skymarket (www.skymarket.co.uk)	Premium 2	0800 321 7788	£149	50MB	2G8	1	1	Х	1	1	1	1	1	1
STRATO Hosting (www.strato-hosting.co.uk)	STRATO BasicWeb	00800 8007 0070	£48	2GB	Unlimited	1,000	х	Х	1	1	1	1	1	X
STRATO Hosting (www.strato-hosting.co.uk)	STRATO PowerWeb	00800 8007 0070	£72	6GB	Unlimited	2,000	/	×	1	1	1	1	1	Х
STRATO Hosting (www.strato-hosting.co.uk)	STRATO AdvancedWeb	00800 8007 0070	£120	20GB	Unlimited	4,000	1	Х	1	1	1	1	1	×
STRATO Hosting (www.strato-hosting.co.uk)	STRATO EnterpriseWeb	00800 8007 0070	£180	50GB	Unlimited	6,000	1	х	1	1	1	1	1	Х
Streamline.net.(www.streamline.net)	Trial (3 month)	0844 941 1000	N/A	10GB	Unlimited	1,000	1	Option	1	1	1	1	1	Х
Streamline.net.(www.streamline.net)	Starter	0844 941 1000	£23.88	500MB	Unlimited	20	1	Option	1	1	1	1	1	Х
Streamline net (www.streamline.net)	Personal	0844 941 1000	£41.88	3GB	Unlimited	500	1	Option	1	1	1	1	1	×
Streamline.net.(www.streamline.net)	Plus	0844 941 1000	£71.88	10GB	Unlimited	1,000	1	Option	1	1	1	1	1	Х
Streamline.net.(www.streamline.net)	Multisite	0844 941 1000	£137.88	20GB	Unlimited	Unlimited	1	Option	1	1	1	1	1	Х
Swish Hosting (www.cwishhosting.co.uk)	Email	08445 67 69 71	£18		Unlimited	Unlimited	х	Х	1	1	1	1	1	1
Swish Hosting (www.swishhosting.co.uk)	Windows Hosting	08445 67 69 71	£66		Unlimited	Unlimited	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Swish Hosting (www.swishhosting.co.uk)	Linux Hosting	08445 67 69 71	£66		Unlimited	Unlimited	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Swish Hosting (www.swishhosting.co.uk)	eCommerce	08445 67 69 71	£90		Unlimited	Unlimited	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Swish Hosting (www.swishhosting.co.uk)	SiteBuilder	08445 67 69 71	£12		Unlimited	Unlimited	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Switch Media (www.switchmedia.com)	Switch Standard	0151 236 9111	£159	1GB	50GB	500	1	Х	Х	×	1	1	х	Х
Switch Media (www.switchmedia.com)	Switch Business	0151 236 9111	£249	10GB	150GB	1500	1	х	Х	х	1	1	1	х
Switch Media (www.switchmedia.com)	Business Pro	0151 236 9111	£348.96	20GB	300GB	5000	1	х	Х	х	1	1	1	Х
thename.co.uk-(www.thename.co.uk)	Parking	0870 765 6364	£52.88	25MB	500MB	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	х
thename.co.uk-(www.thename.co.uk)	Forwarding	0870 765 6364	From £15	N/A	500MB	N/A	х	х	1	1	1	1	1	Х
thename.co.uk-(www.thename.co.uk)	Hosting	0870 765 6364	From £7.50	N/A	N/A	N/A	х	х	×	1	1	1	1	×
TwentyHost (www.twentyhost.co.uk)	Basic5S	0845 641 0776	£24	100MB	1,500MB	25	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TwentyHost (www.twentyhost.co.uk)	Standard5S	0845 641 0776	£45	200MB	3,000MB	50	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TwentyHost (www.twentyhost.co.uk)	Business5S	0845 641 0776	£70	500MB	7,500MB	100	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TwentyHost (www.twentyhost.co.uk)	Advanced5S	0845 641 0776	£110	1,000MB	15,000MB	200	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
VARiHOST (www.varihost.net)	WordPress Basic	0208 144 7057	£47.88	2GB	10GB	10	1	х	Х	1	1	1	1	1
VARIHOST (www.varihost.net)	WordPress Plus	0208 144 7057	£71.88	4GB	100GB	100	1	1	×	1	1	1	1	1
VARiHOST (www.varihost.net)	WordPress Extra	0208 144 7057	£119.88	unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	1	/	×	1	1	1	1	1
WebFusion (www.webfusion.co.uk)	Fusion Professional	0845 130 1602	£107.40	5GB	50GB	1,000	1	х	1	1	1	1	1	Х
WebFusion (www.webfusion.co.uk)	Fusion Business	08451301602	£179.40	10GB	150GB	1,500	1	х	1	1	1	1	1	х
WebFusion (www.webfusion.co.uk)	Fusion Developer	08451301602	£227.40	20GB	300GB	5.000	1	х	1	1	1	1	1	X
WebFusion (www.webfusion.co.uk)	Fusion Reseller	08451301602	£329.99	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	/	×	1	1	1	1	1	х
Web Wiz (www.webwiz.co.uk)	Windows Starter	0844 358 1450	£69.95	1GB	25GB	100	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Web Wiz (www.webwiz.co.uk)	Windows Professional	0844 358 1450	£149.95	4GB	100GB	500	1	/	1	1	1	1	1	1
Web Wiz (www.web.wiz.co.uk)	Windows Starter Reseller	0844 358 1450	£199.95	5GB	25GB	500	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Web Wiz (www.webwiz.co.uk)	Windows Business Reseller	0844 358 1450	£499.95	20GB	200GB	5,000	/	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Zebra Internet (www.zebrainternet.com)	Starter Pro	N/A	£10.99	5GB	40GB	50	1	х	1	1	х	1	1	1
Zebra Internet (www.zebrainternet.com)	Business Pro	N/A	£46.99	10GB	80GB	500	1	1	1	1	Х	1	1	1
Zebra Internet (www.zebrainternet.com)	Ultimate Pro	N/A	£79.99	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	1	1	1	1	х	1	1	1
	Bronze (Linux) Silver (Linux)	0845 058 9000 0845 058 9000	£47.88 £95.88	2GB 5GB	20GB 50GB	10 25	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	x x



Zen Internet www.zen.co.uk

Gold (Linux) Platinum (Linux) Reseller (Linux) Designer (Windows) Developer (Windows)

£143.88 £239.88 £479.88 £59.88

£179.88

10GB 100GB 50GB 250GB 150GB 500GB 2GB 20GB

Fantastic customer support If all else fails and you ne

extra help to get your hosting back online, then a commitment to future customer support is key. Many vendors offer a service-level agreement which outlines what you can expect here, however most will be more explicit about whether phone support is included or email contact is preferred. Think about what you need for peace of mind and factor good, comprehensive technical support

Golden rules to top hosting We identify and explain the key criteria for success...



determined by the kinds of resources and quantity of features you require from your hosting solution. Key criteria like web space and monthly bandwidth are important for those services likely to be subjected to heavy amounts of traffic, which is why package solutions for enterprise applications are typically much more expensive. The general rule of thumb is not to buy more than you need or underestimate potential requirements.



Competitive and reliable

hosting providers do try to drive prices down in a bid to entice your custom. Use our chart to compare costs, but be sure to visit the vendor websites to keep track of the latest deals, as they change. Remember that low price should not always be a deciding factor and that paying a premium for a more reliable, trusted and experienced vendor can offer you much better value for money in the long term.

The hosting market is big business and



Modern hosting is all about giving customers the power to set up, monitor and maintain their web space with minimal fuss. Most commercial vendors offer access to award-winning and intuitive control panels that enable you to log in remotely and intuitively tweak your account. without the need to relay complicated instructions down the phone. Be sure to find out from your

50

100

250

potential host as much as you can about the control panel and request a demo. against the price

> 105 hosting listings

designer NEXT ISSUE



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LEARNHOW TO DELIVER ONE SOLUTION TO ALL
DEVICES WITH THHE BUZZ TREND ON EVERYONE SLIPS
MEDIA QUERIES, FLUID LAYOUTS,
MOBILE APPS, ELASTIC WEB TEXT
AND CONTEXT-AWARE IMAGES

RESPONSIVE DESIGN CANONESIZE REALLY FIT ALL?

LEARN HOW TO DELIVER ONE SOLUTION TO ALL DEVICES WITH THE BUZZ TREND ON EVERYONE'S LIPS

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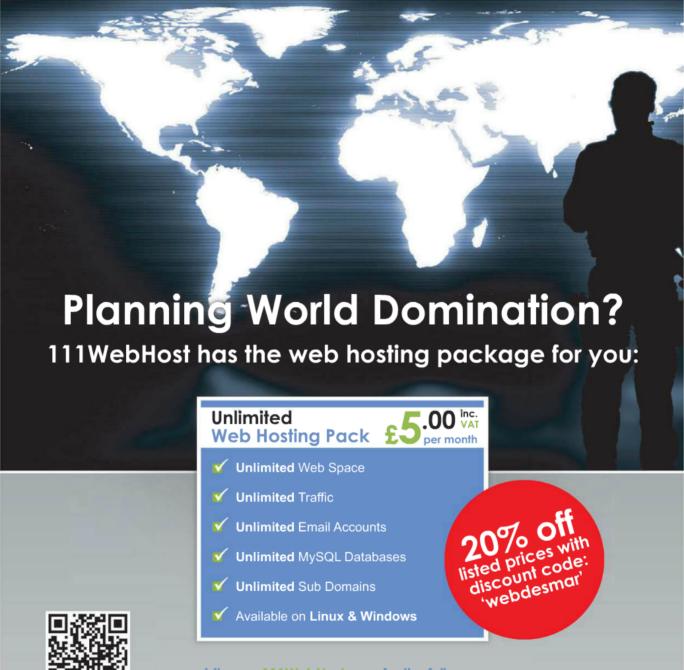
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Your free resource disc



Welcome to the Web Designer cover disc, a feature-packed CD containing a must-have collection of resources and tutorial assets

This disc

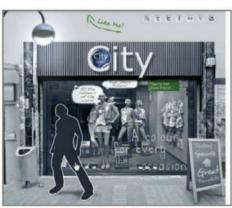
has over

Once again Web Designer has scoured the web and beyond looking for the best selection of design resources out there. This month's lineup includes the City Virtual Street Facebook template, the Lofty WordPress theme, 70 social media icons, 82 oriental ink brushes, 50 audio loops and the stylish Oaken Bucket font.

City Facebook Fan Page template

From: http://activeden.net

A Facebook Fan Page is used to convert visitors into fans and this City Virtual Street template is here to help. The Flash-based interactive animation provides a platform for users to present and promote any urban business. The theme is fully XML customisable.







24

mobile sites

This issue's Design cloud brings together a collection of unmissable small-screen Uls



tutorial files

All the code and assets needed to complete this issue's workshops

50

audio loops Soundsnap (www. soundsnap.com)

provides an essential selection of music clips and sound effects

Load the CD: Microsoft Windows

We support Windows 7 unless otherwise stated. The CD-ROM should autorun once placed into your disc drive. If not, follow these instructions:

a:

Browse to

My Computer.
Right-click on

your CD drive, and select Open from the drop-down list.

Read the 'readme.txt' if there is one present to find out which files you need to launch to run

the interface.

Load the CD:

Mac OS X

Up to OS X 10.7 (Lion) supported. This CD-ROM interface will NOT autorun when placed into your CD drive. Instead:



Double-click the CD icon on your desktop.



Read the 'readme' file if there is one present to find out which file you require to successfully run the interface.



What would you like to see featured on your free CD? webdesigner@imagine-publishing.co.uk



Pearl social media icon set

From: http://graphicriver.net

This pearl pack comprises 70 individual 64 x 64px social media icons in the PNG format. Included in the lineup are all the usual suspects – Twitter, Facebook, WordPress, Flickr, Google and YouTube – plus a whole host of essential services. A single PSD includes all the icon elements allowing for easy customisation.



Lofty WordPress theme

From: http://fthemes.com
The Lofty WordPress theme from
EThemes.com.sits in the elegant

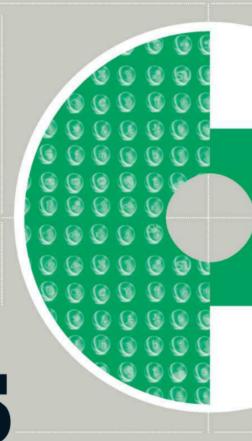
The Lotty word ress trieffe from EThemes.com. sits in the elegant magazine style category and comes with a range of handy features. The theme is featured image ready, boasts space for 125 x 125px ads and is SEO optimised. It adopts a two-column layout, with right sidebar and a cool blue and black colour scheme.

82 sumi stroke brushes

The lovely people at Photoshop Tutorials (http://_photoshoptutorials.ws). provide a set of PS brushes created with sumi drawing ink. These elegant brushes are available in sizes up to 1,250px and compatible with Photoshop 7 and above.



Over



designer

ISSUE 194

- 70 pearl social media icons
- City Facebook Fan Page82 sumi stroke brushes
- AS3 Menus Part 4 video
- Lofty WordPress theme
 FOrmusia lagran & FY
- 50 music loops & FX
 Oaken Bucket font

Web Designer © Imagine Publishing 2012

Oaken Bucket font

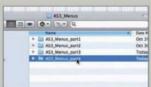
Oaken Bucket from Nick's Fonts (www.nicksfonts... com). Is inspired by the Victorian type Oakwood. It's a great font for old-fashioned decorative work



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minutes of HTML5, CSS3 and ActionScript video tutorials



AS3 Menus

The fourth part in this five-part series takes a look at parsing XML in Flash, loading external files, listing component events and dynamic text.

From: www.cartoonsmart.com



HTML5, CSS3 & jQuery

The latest collection from KillerSites takes the viewer through the steps needed to convert from XHTML to HTML5 utilising CSS3 techniques.

From: www.killersites.com

Find more free tutorial content at (b) www.webdesignermag.co.uk

discpages 113

<style relic> Sainsbury's

Frames

This is a page-building technique that has been sent down the annals of internet history. Popular in the late Nineties, a selection of frames contained different documents - ea top.html, content.html, etc - to make up a page. They could be difficult to use and are no longer supported, thankfully.

Load



Sainsbury's www.sainsburys.co.uk

The supermarket chain was quick to join the internet revolution, providing some great examples of what the web can bring to retail back in the Nineties



Sainsbury's is synonymous with the British layout 1998 saw a redesign and the addition of a supermarket industry and is one of the oldest in the world, founded by John James Sainsbury in 1869. Ever a market leader the chain was quick to sign up to the internet back in the mid-Nineties.

Its first foray on to the web in 1996 was very much of its day with simple graphics and a basic tabbed interface, which was ahead of its time, but the execution back then was very different to the format that's popular today.

Stepping forward to 1999 the supermarket chain produced the first incarnation of its website that could be said to have persisted to this day.

Its first foray on to the web in 1996 was very much of its day with simple graphics and a basic layout



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